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January 1999

# The Free Will Baptist





*C. H. Overman*

## 1999: AND THEN WHAT?

In August of 1997, we commented about the coming millennium and what a unique time it is to be living and being a part of it. This year will mark the end of a century and the end of a one-thousand-year period. (The fact, however, is that the beginning of the new millennium will not actually take place until 2001; but the big celebrations, etc., will take place next year.)

When I was in my thirties, I wondered if I would be living when we entered into the new century and the new millennium. At that time it didn't seem likely; seventy years old seemed to be a long way off. Over the years, I have modified that view a great deal until now it is most likely that I will be here — living, that is — however, I will be a few months short of seventy because my birthday comes in October. Lots of things can happen in a year's time, and even within the span of one hour or one day. Life is uncertain, and in reality we can live only one day at the time.

In Psalm 31:15, David, in acknowledging His trust in God, wrote: "My times are in thy hand:...." God's faithful ascribe to such an expression of trust and faith. The year, the century, the millennium, doesn't really matter; He is in charge of them all. This year will have its challenges, its successes, and its failures. It may bring sorrow, tragedy, and increased turmoil in our nation and world. Meteorologists have predicted more rain and cyclonic weather for certain parts of our country. The media is constantly reminding us of the possibility of terrorist attacks. Viruses and bacterial strains are expected to increase. Indeed, the possibility of terrible tragedies always threatens our very existence. Our time on earth is uncertain. What may happen to our loved ones, our nation, and society in general is unknown to us, just as God has so ordained it. In such matters we can't "call the shots;" it's in the hands of God.

Much is being written concerning the Y2K (the year 2000) problem relative to computer failures, that when the year 2000 begins on the midnight of December 31, 1999, the computers will read it as 1900. This will result in all kinds of crises because so much of business, industry, etc., is dependent on the computer. The opinions regarding the solving of this problem varies. Some feel that by the end of 1999, there will only be minor difficulties. Others feel that there will be major problems, resulting in a breakdown in our society and in most of the world. Newer computers, however, are programmed to recognize the new millennium, as well as those that have been updated. Some have speculated that the hype about all this has been exaggerated in

order to increase market demands. Whatever may happen, or may not happen — "our time is in His hands." With this truth in mind, we offer this prayer as we enter into this new year and as we face a new era 365 days from now.

"O Lord, our God. We praise You and thank You for all the wonderful and glorious events that take place in our lives. We thank You for Your infinite love and marvelous grace which we have experienced through Jesus Christ.

"We acknowledge our sins and our weaknesses and we know without Thee we are nothing and can do nothing. As we face this new year, we ask for Your continual grace and blessings to be upon us.

"Lord, we know our path as a Nation and people has not been pleasing to You. We wonder, O Lord, how much longer You will be long-suffering with us. We ask for Your grace upon our Nation, and upon our leaders. We pray that our country will awaken to its moral dilemma and realize that financial well-being is of less importance than spiritual well-being. Give us leaders who believe that character counts and morality matters.

"We pray, O Father, for a revival in our land and world — a revival that will result in the salvation of the lost and the rededication of Your people to righteous living and complete acceptance of Your Word as truth.

"Grant us Your protection as we face this year. As Your Spirit leads us, may we follow in complete obedience as we pray for 'thy kingdom to come, and thy will be done on earth as is in Heaven.' Amen."

## Let Us Hear From You

*The Free Will Baptist* goes out each month to nearly 4800 subscribers. We would like to know that most of our subscribers are readers of each publication.

Friends and fellow Free Will Baptists, we would really like to hear from you more often. You can send us your church news items, articles, etc., also any comments you may have — positive or negative (as long as the negative is constructive and will offer ways to improve this publication). Let us hear from you; if for no other reason, to let us know that you are out there and that you are interested in this phase of our denominational work.



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NEXT MONTH

February is
Sunday School
and Christian
Education Month

January is
Retirement Homes
Month

## The Positive Side of Negative Preaching

by Croft M. Pentz

Addressing the importance of preaching, the speaker remarked, "I've not preached a negative sermon in years." This comment raised several pertinent questions. Should we not preach negative sermons? Does the speaker preach the whole counsel of God?

To maintain proper balance in preaching, there must be some negative preaching. Preaching without this balance creates unstable Christians, and will lead to questionable and false doctrine.

Everyone loves success stories. Everyone desires to be healthy and prosperous. However, in God's will there are times of loss, failure, sickness, and even premature death.

Was Moses wrong in bringing a negative message to Pharaoh? Was Elijah wrong in his negative approach to Ahab? Did Nathan fail by being negative in exposing the sin of David?

Eight of the Ten Commandments begin with "Thou shalt not." Should we disregard these commandments as being too negative? Should we preach only those not beginning with "Thou shalt not?"

Joseph interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh though it was a negative report. Much of the teaching of Jesus was negative. He spoke of death, suffering, self-denial, and hell.

The Apostle Paul was negative in his preaching. He spoke of crucifying self (Galatian 2:20). He said all who live godly lives will suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). Was he wrong to teach and preach this way?

Was Martin Luther too negative when nailing his 95 theses to the door? Were the prophets, disciples and early church fathers too negative in their preaching? If they had not been negative in preaching, where would the church be today?

Of course, one can be too negative in

preaching, causing his followers to be judgmental, self-righteous and spiritually proud.

### *Negative Preaching and Sin*

Many excuse sin. They call it error or failure. They use logic and reasoning as to why man commits sin. The true minister will preach we are sinners by birth and remain sinners by choice.

Some use the **abuse excuse**. All sin and failure is the result of being abused as a child, excusing their sinful behavior. Others play the **blame game**. All sin is someone else's fault. As a bumper sticker put it, "Humpty Dumpty was pushed."

When a well-known minister, who was guilty of adultery, excused himself, saying to his superiors, "If you are without sin, cast the first stone," his followers defended him, saying, "No one is perfect, so don't judge him." Other ministers excuse their divorce and remarriage without scriptural grounds saying, "God told me it's all right."

Man must be told that it was sin that nailed Jesus to the cross. It is sin that sends people to hell. It is sin that separates man from God (Psalm 66:18). The prophet said the soul that sins shall die (Ezekial 18:4). Paul said "...the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23). John says no sin enters heaven (Revelation 21:27).

Heaven will mean more when we realize the sufferings of hell. The love of God is more precious when we understand the wrath of God. The justice of God is more appreciated when we understand the judgment of God.

### *Negative Preaching and Sickness*

Some preach saying Christians should never be ill. They say all sickness is due to a lack of faith or sin in the life. Jesus did not

(Reprinted by permission from the December, 1997 issue of *Pulpit Helps* published in Chattanooga, TN by AMG International (Advancing the Ministries of the Gospel).



teach this in John 9 about the man born blind.

Did not God permit sickness in Job's life? Though he lost his riches, children and health, he accepted God's will in these matters. Did Job lack faith? He said though God slay Him, still he would trust Him (Job 13:15). He also said, "I know that my redeemer liveth" (Job 16:25).

Paul prayed three times for God to heal the thorn in his flesh, but was not healed. Instead, he came to glory in his infirmities, that the power of Christ might remain upon him. When he was weak, he was strong (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Fanny Crosby became blind, and

in her blindness wrote hundreds of hymns which have blessed millions over the years. Was her blindness sin? Was it a lack of faith?

Of course, God does heal. He does deliver from sin and Satan. However, the same God who freed Peter from prison permitted John the Baptist and James to be beheaded (Matthew 14:10, Acts 12:2).

### *Negative Preaching and Standards*

Churches, seminaries and colleges that once were evangelical became liberal because of the lack

of preaching God's standards, which some considered to be negative. Pastors became political, giving people what they wanted rather than what they needed.

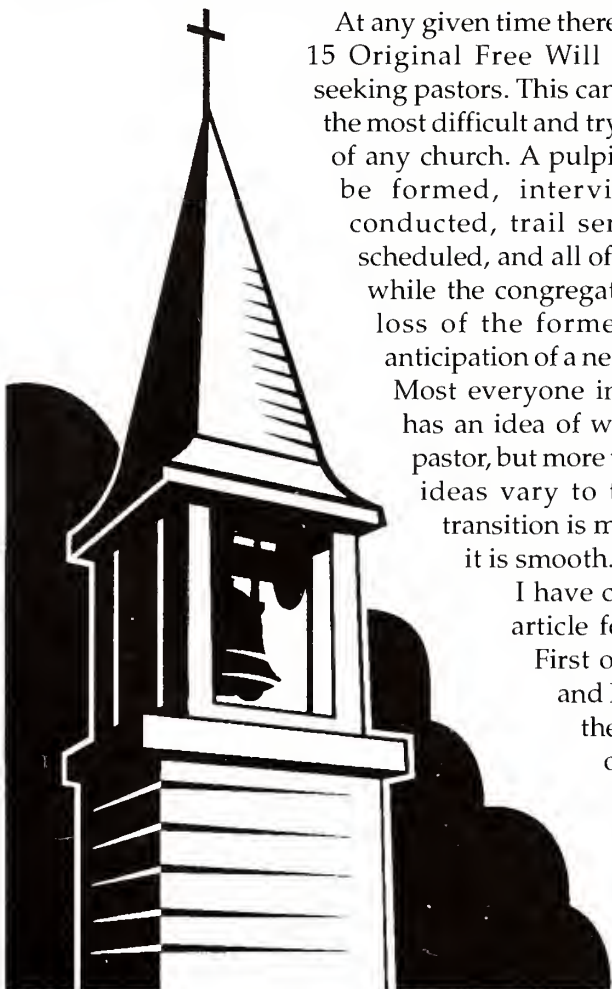
Negative preaching does not appeal to the self-centered person. Negative preaching according to God's Word requires dedication and denial. It requires daily discipline. The flesh rebels against this.

There is a need for positive preaching. But without some negative preaching, there is an improper balance. We all love sunshine, but all sunshine and no rain makes a desert.

## *The Church and Minister in Transition*

by the Rev. Mike Scott

### **Part 1: Guidelines for Both Churches and Pastors**



At any given time there are approximately 15 Original Free Will Baptist Churches seeking pastors. This can certainly be one of the most difficult and trying times in the life of any church. A pulpit committee has to be formed, interviews have to be conducted, trail sermons have to be scheduled, and all of this has to be done while the congregation deals with the loss of the former pastor and the anticipation of a new pastor coming in. Most everyone in the congregation has an idea of what they want in a pastor, but more times than not these ideas vary to the point that the transition is more confusing than it is smooth.

I have chosen to write this article for several reasons.

First of all, I am a pastor and I have been through the process of leaving one church and accepting another.

Second, I have a great love and a deep concern for the church and pray daily

for its growth and success. Third, I believe that both churches and prospective pastors make serious mistakes when they are in the period of transition. It is my goal to point out some of these mistakes and to attempt to help both the seeking church and the seeking pastor find each other under the best possible circumstances.

In this article I want to point out two considerations that I believe both the pastor, who is looking to relocate and the church which is seeking pastoral leadership, need to be keenly aware of. The first of these is that both must be concerned above everything else about the will of God. It is not the churches' job to get out and "beat the bushes" to find a pastor and it is not the pastor's job to find a church. The Bible teaches us that the church is under the Lordship of Christ (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18), and as such He is to have the preeminence in all things. I am firmly convinced that there is a preacher for every church and a church for every preacher, and what needs to be done to bring the two together is to sincerely seek to know the will of God. If a church is looking to find the "best" pastor for the smallest salary, while the pastor is looking to find the largest church available with the highest salary, they are at cross



purposes and are more interested in their own welfare than they are in fulfilling the will and the purpose of God. The process of seeking a pastor must be one of prayer and of waiting upon the Lord until He makes His will known.

Most of the time a church gets in to big a hurry to secure a pastor. While pastoral leadership is imperative, and while many "needs" can arise in the church that only a trained professional can handle, much damage can be done if the church gets in a rush to hire a pastor. This is not to say that God cannot lead the right man to a particular church in a short period of time, but the church needs to be sure that he is the right man (the man of God's choosing). When we fail to wait upon the Lord, and when we "jump" at the first available candidate, we tend to make our situation worse than it already is, and we show contempt to the leadership of God's Spirit.

On the other hand, the pastor who is to quick to accept a church without being convinced that this is the place that God has chosen for him runs a risk of doing damage to both the church and his ministry. What many preachers fail to remember is that they have not chosen the ministry but that God has chosen them. He who has called us is able to keep us, and He will guide our footsteps and direct our paths. The place of service that we view as unacceptable may be the very place that God has chosen to place and to use us. Nothing should come between the gospel preacher and the will of God for his life. As we seek to know and to fulfill His will we not only grow in grace, but we place ourselves in a position to accomplish the greatest amount of good for God's kingdom.

The second consideration that both the church and the pastor need to be aware of is the Golden Rule. We are commanded in Scripture to treat others as we would like for them to treat us. I have known of pulpit committees who misrepresent both the financial and the spiritual condition of the churches. Problems within the church are masked and "difficult" individuals are kept out of sight. At the same time, I am aware of pastors who misrepresent their goals and desires for the church. In an interview they will listen to what the church wants in a pastor and will then adopt that position as their own, even if they have no intention of

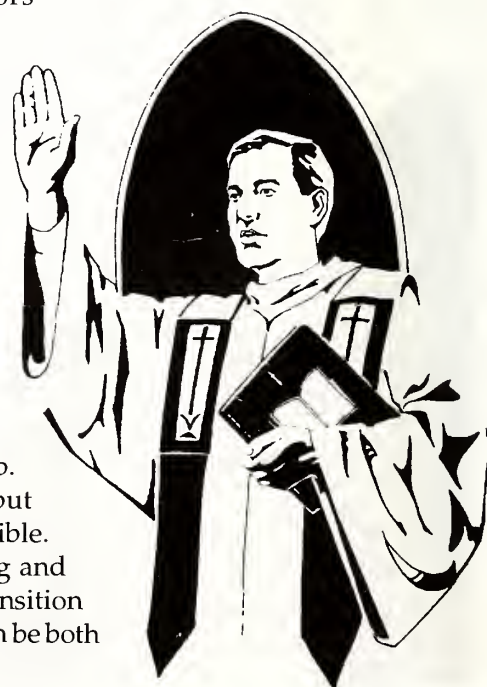
living up to it. It is always best to be fair and aboveboard when it comes to our dealings with others. The pulpit committee should faithfully represent the condition of the church and point out both its strengths and weaknesses. Likewise, the pastor should truthfully represent his doctrinal stance, his goals and ambitions for the church and the amount of dedication and energy that he is willing to put forth (as well as the amount of dedication and energy which he expects the church to put forth) to realize those goals. No one likes to be deceived, and both the church and pastor should present themselves in an honest manner.

Deception is always wrong, and it is especially wrong when it enters into the work of God. The church attempting to secure a pastor and the pastor seeking to relocate are not two separate entities attempting to accomplish their own agendas; rather, they are both possessions of God seeking to bring glory to His name and to establish His Kingdom on earth. A spirit of love, openness, cooperation and unity should prevail as the pulpit committee and the pastor meet. To be sure, churches have been deceived by perspective pastors and pastors have been mistreated as they have dealt with perspective churches, but this is no reason to enter into negotiations with disregard for each others' feelings. Christ loves the church and shed His blood for it. Likewise, He loves, calls, and sustains the ministers of His Word.

When churches and pastors begin to see each other as Christ sees them and begin to treat each other as the Golden Rule commands them to do, then the purposes of God can be fulfilled and the work of the church can be accomplished.

In the next article in this series we will address specific guidelines which the church needs to consider as it seeks pastoral leadership. The process can be difficult, but it doesn't have to be impossible. With a proper understanding and a Biblical perspective, the transition from one pastor to the next can be both smooth and rewarding.

*While pastoral leadership is imperative, and while many "needs" can arise in the church that only a trained professional can handle, much damage can be done if the church gets in a rush to hire a pastor.*





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# Marsh Swamp Original Free Will Baptist Church Celebrates Homecoming and 125th Anniversary

Sunday, October 27, was a very special and exciting day for the church family of Marsh Swamp Original Free Will Baptist Church, Sims, NC. The day was a celebration of Homecoming and the 125th anniversary of the beginning of Marsh Swamp Church. The church was filled to capacity as friends and families joined together in a service of praise and thanksgiving for the blessings that God has bestowed upon the church since its beginning in 1873.

The worship service began at 10:30 AM with the Call to Worship by the Adult Handbell Choir. The song entitled "God's Sanctuary" was written by 14-year-old Brittany Sherrod. Ms. Sherrod, a member of the church, dedicated the song to the congregation of Marsh Swamp Church in celebration of the anniversary.

During the worship service, Mrs. Lottie Boykin, President of the local Woman's Auxiliary, read the names of those of our church family who had gone to be with the Lord since our last Homecoming. Mr. Rob Boyette, chairman of the 125th celebration committee, read a brief history of the church and recognized Mrs. Mary Rachael Miller, Ms. Frances Boyette and Mr. James B. Hunt Sr. as persons who served as honorary members of the 125th committee. These three persons had been involved in the 100th anniversary celebration of the church and were instrumental in compiling and writing the history of the church.

Two very significant gifts were presented to the church. The Rev. Bruce Dudley, representing the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, presented to Mr. Phil Norville, a plaque recognizing the contribution that Marsh Swamp has made to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist since the church was

organized. The second gift was the presentation of checks totaling over \$21,000.00 in memory of Sanford Selby Lamm and Virginia Stott Lamm. These gifts will be used to establish a Scholarship Endowment in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Lamm with the interest to be used to provide a \$1,000.00 annual scholarship to a person in the church or community seeking to further their education.

The Rev. Ray Wells, Pastor, then read letters from former pastors and from men who had answered the call to ministry and who had been ordained in Marsh Swamp Church.

Following the worship service, those present gathered in front of the church for a picture. After the picture was taken, everyone was directed to the fellowship hall where all enjoyed the fellowship and the Homecoming meal.

The Marsh Swamp Church family gives thanks to God for all His blessings over the past 125 years and pledges themselves to leave a strong legacy of faith to those who will come after us.



Emily Waddell and Garland Lemmons,  
Marsh Swamp Church Treasurer.



The Rev. Bruce Dudley presented the plaque  
to Mr. Phil Norville, vice chairman of the  
Board of Directors.



Family picture: Front row L-R: Billy Lamm, Dorothy Lamm, Audrey Perry, Romaine Lamm, Emily Waddell, Stevie Waddell, Jimmy Waddell, Back row L-R: Sandy Waddell, Cheryl Waddell, Ronnie Lamme, Tommy Perry. Absent when the picture was taken: James and Carol Lamm.



# God Was, God Is, God Will Ever Be

...To Julian Gaskill (1921-1998)

Fall colors cut across the sunset sky at Nelson Bay  
cushioning the drop of day in the twist of night:  
our birth and our death twin pains  
in a world of nature  
where we ourselves await our exit  
into the breath and depth of the One  
whose Wisdom and Spirit of the Universe awaits us.

Julian Gaskill has gone ahead,  
his body now freed into earth's darkness  
just as it came into earth's light.  
He goes before us in death  
as he did so much in life,  
his gentle kindness in words and deeds  
as much a statement of his Christian faith  
as his living and dying.

Julian's love of silver-streaked mullets  
jumping in schools of coastal waters  
matched his delight in postal stamps,  
Sunday school lessons, early morning walks,  
family meals with Julian Wayne  
and his household of Sea Level women  
nourished in wetlands where  
tall white egrets  
and free-winged gulls  
sweep the coast in search  
of food that feeds and sustains.

Julian found his food in God,  
and in his passing from flesh's door  
into the wondrous hope of God's door,  
he reminds us now in this hushed day,  
to sing of life,  
to hope and pray.

And so we do as Julian has done,  
we lift our hearts to God as One,  
and see in this candle we now light  
the memory of Julian's soul's delight:  
this candle brings his presence near  
reminding us of life everlasting, ever dear,  
for God was,  
for God is,  
for God will be,  
everlasting to everlasting,  
light to dark,  
birth to death,  
today to tomorrow,  
now and forever.  
Amen. Amen.

— Pepper Worthington

# Camp Vandemere Our Family Enrichment Center

Christmas is over. The gifts have been opened and the wrapping paper has been discarded; gifts that were the wrong size or were simply *wrong* have been exchanged; the "dried up" tree has been thrown out and the leftover turkey has been made into turkey salad. Nineteen ninety-eight is gone and 1999 is upon us. A new year always brings both new challenges and new opportunities.

At Camp Vandemere we are facing the New Year with cautious optimism. *Cautious* because we are in need of a new camp manager, and because we are in dire need of many costly improvements. *Optimistic* because we serve a great God who is in control of all the circumstances of life and Who has promised to provide and to meet all of our needs. He has blessed and sustained the camp in the past and we are certain that He will continue to guide us in our future endeavors.

We are constantly in need of the help and support of Original Free Will Baptists throughout the state. More than anything, the prayer support of God's people is essential for the success of Camp Vandemere. Faith and prayer are able to bring to bear the power of God whereby mountains are moved and strongholds are pulled down. Also, financial support is needed if Camp Vandemere is to continue as a dynamic influence in building God's Kingdom here on earth. Each one reading this article is encouraged to seek God and to determine what He would have them to do in their financial support of the camp. We can place our resources in no greater cause than the work of His Kingdom.

Finally, we need campers for the coming season. We have a summer full of activities planned for youth and adults. Both the Layman's League and the Woman's Auxiliary have retreats planned, and we look forward to these spirit-filled weeks. The counsellors for our youth camps are making their preparations for each exciting week of camp. Encourage your young people to sign-up for a camping experience that will make a profound impact upon their lives. This could be the very thing that God uses to bring them to salvation or to a deeper sense of commitment to the cause of Christ.

## Camp Manager Needed

Camp Vandemere is seeking a full-time camp manager. The applicant should be excited about the ministry of Camp Vandemere and should be able to work well with large groups of people. Duties include supervising the staff, representing the camp at conferences and conventions, taking reservations and overseeing the maintenance of the camp. If interested please contact:

The Rev. Owen Arthur  
660 Half Moon Road  
New Bern, NC 28560  
(252) 633-1185

The Rev. Tim Heath  
601 Turkey Point Road  
Sneads Ferry, NC 28460  
(910) 327-2850



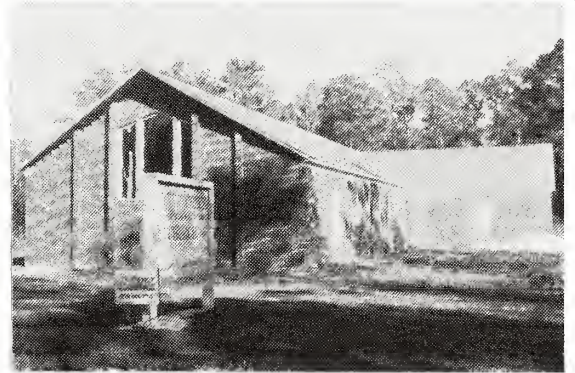
# Layman's League

## Eastern Conference Laymen Meet

On November 16, 1998, the Eastern Conference Layman's League met with the Silver Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, Swansboro, NC. Attendance was good and following a delicious meal and a warm greeting an inspiring message was delivered by Brother Terry Ellis, the host Pastor. After the business session many were given a tour of the new church building which is under construction. A converted mobile home has been used for church services in prior years, and all of the congregation is looking forward to the completion of this new sanctuary. Isn't it wonderful what God can do when we pray and keep Him first and foremost in our lives. May God continue to bless the Layman's League and its many endeavors.



Mobile Home converted to Church sanctuary while they wait for their dream to come true.



Silver Creek F.W.B. Church, Swansboro, NC under construction. Hopefully will be ready in Spring 1999.

## Dates to Remember

February 4	Executive Committee and Promotional Board VFW Building, Snow Hill 7:00 PM
March 1	Central Conference Layman's League King's Cross Roads Original Free Will Baptist Church Meal 7:00 PM, Business 7:45 PM
June 7	Central Conference Layman's League Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church (Host churches: Ormondsville, Little Creek, St. Delight) Meal 7:00 PM, Business 7:45 PM
June 4-5	Spiritual Life Retreat Camp Vandemere Vandemere, NC

## Layman's League News

On December 3, 1998, the State Layman's League and Promotional Board met at the VFW Building in Snow Hill, NC. President Elmer Harrell strongly expressed our twin purposes of bringing our denominational laymen together through fellowship and increasing our knowledge of and power in Christ Jesus. The members present gave several suggestions as to how attendance could be increased through searching out churches without an active Layman's League and attempting to establish one. It is our goal to get all of our conferences represented by encouraging interested laymen to join our team in order that all of our men throughout the state can have fellowship one with the other. If you would like for someone to meet with your church to help pull your laymen together as brothers for Christ, just give us a call. Let's get our entire state on the move!

We have a lot to offer the laymen of your church. Through monthly articles in *The Free Will Baptist*, special events will be given recognition throughout the year. If your laymen would like to enjoy a fellowship that they never knew existed, contact Elmer Harrell at (252) 747-2894.



State Layman's League executive committee and promotional board.



## RETIREMENT MINISTRIES

She walks into the sunset;  
perhaps the sunset of life! She  
walks alone. Why?



**She walks alone because not enough people care!**

Our Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes Ministry is helping only four people. We would like to help more!

Last spring the Retirement Homes Board created a new program, the *Supplemental Housing Support Program*. This program is designed to assist persons who cannot provide their housing expenses alone. It is a program that is for a fixed period and at a fixed level of support, both time-span and support-level are determined on an individual basis by the Board on recommendation from the Executive Director. If the needs of the individual warrant and the resources of the Retirement Homes Ministry are sufficient, the contract can be renewed. Such renewal is not automatic.

This program provides an avenue to help persons who need help, but can provide partly for themselves. Also, it allows us a flexibility in meeting the needs of our people, which makes it possible to help more persons or to help someone temporarily.

At the most recent meeting of the Board of Directors the first participant in the new program was approved. The Rev. Earl Minchew, 1703 Peachtree Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530, became the newest member of the Retirement Homes Family starting December 1, 1998. Brother Minchew, who is legally blind and otherwise in poor health, will receive housing support each month throughout 1999. If his needs continue and if Retirement Homes has the funds, such support could be continued.

## Who Cares?

There are a number of reasons that demonstrate that Free Will Baptists care. First, we have a Convention Program that is expanding to meet the needs of our Church for the 21st century. Second, we support ten ministries that reach out to help people in varied ways. Third, our Retirement Homes Ministry is the most stable, financially, it has been in several years and is now in the process of helping more people and planning for the future.

In spite of or perhaps because of this good news there are still challenges before us. Foremost, is that there are still people who need our help. Moreover, every indication is that the number of older Americans will continue to increase for the foreseeable future and along with this is the number of people who will need retirement assistance. The problem is not that no one cares, but that not enough people care enough. We must increase our level of support both for the present needs and also, we must plan for tomorrow. This is not the problem of a few good people, but the clamoring call to all Christians.

If you visit someone old and lonely you will be moved by their needs, but visit someone you know and perhaps you will be moved to action. The Biblical mandate in James 1:27, becomes a foundation for Christian action through our Retirement Homes Ministry. *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.* The injunction implied here is to minister to persons in need. Retirement Homes Ministry provides an avenue for such ministry.

It is worthy of note that when Jesus presented Himself for public ministry, He chose to identify Himself with the suffering servant concept of Isaiah. In Luke 4:18, He appears to be reading from Isaiah 61:1, and declares Himself as God's servant to His people. We too, must identify with the servant concept, we must serve His people in His stead.

During this Retirement Homes month, you have an opportunity to help in this service to people with an offering, perhaps a very special offering on January 24, which is Retirement Homes Sunday. Please, give in response to the way that Jesus has given for you.

**Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes**  
PO Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513-0039

# A Retirement Homes Resident

In this article, an interview with the Editor of the Free Will Baptist, Mrs. Bowen shares information about her past and also urges greater support for the Retirement Homes Ministry.

*Editor:* Mrs. Bowen, what about your early life, your conversion, and school life?

*Rose:* I was born on April 9, 1916, in Durham, NC. My parents were Willie Catherine and Samuel Duncan Gerrard. There were three girls and one boy in our family. We attended Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham, NC. My conversion occurred when I was nine years old. I remember that we were baptized in little white gowns. I was a member of the Junior department's class for nine-year olds. The department superintendent would give us memorization work that helped us in our spiritual growth.

I attended the first grade at Morehead Grammer School. At that time I had long, blond curls and the students would tangle my curls, and when I would get home from school my mother would fuss at me. I also attended Durham Junior High and West Durham Senior High. During those years I won several spelling bee's. I was also involved in the Glee Club as lead soprano.

After graduation from high school, I enrolled in a business course at Campbell College. At age 16, I took a job at Leggett-Myers. I did this to help my Mother.

*Editor:* When and how did you meet Mr. Bowen and when were you married?

*Rose:* I met Mr. Brown when I was seventeen. I was still a Missionary Baptist. It was in 1933, during a six-week revival at Edgemont Free Will Baptist Church. The Rev. Henry Melvin was conducting the revival. Some friends asked me to the services, and I suspected they wanted me to meet Mr. Bowen. I had planned to sit with the congregation, but Brother Melvin urged me to sing in the choir. I sat directly in front of Mr. Bowen. He had hoped that I would sit in the congregation so he

could look at me. By going in the choir, he could only see the back of my head. Our courtship began and we were later married in a simple ceremony at Edgemont Church. At that time, we were earning \$30.00 per week. Mr. Bowen's conversion took place at Edgemont Church and I also joined Edgemont Church.

*Editor:* How did you and Mr. Bowen get involved in the work of the denomination?

*Rose:* About 1936 we were asked by the Rev. Henry Melvin to serve as field workers for the Free Will Baptist League. At that time the League was growing and needed someone to promote it. Later, the Rev. M. E. Tyson encouraged us to go back to school. This was during the Depression years. The State Convention, we were told, would help us financially; however, very little support came to us because of the Depression. To help with our expenses, I operated the bookstore at Campbell, earning \$5.00 a week, but that amount was not actually paid to me, but covered my meals.

We lived in the old Campbell Home and sawed our own wood to heat the rooms. During that time, I continued to take piano and voice lessons. Upon finishing school, we moved to Nashville, Tennessee where we pastored for 12 years.

*Editor:* What about Mr. Bowen's educational background.

*Rose:* Mr. Bowen received an associate in arts degree from Campbell, a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest, a master of Arts from Peabody, and PhD studies at Vanderbilt University.

*Editor:* Tell us about your immediate family.

*Rose:* In 1950, a son was born. We named him Jeffrey Byron. He has been a wonderful joy to us. Later, we decided to change his name to Clarence F. Bowen, Jr., because he resembled his Daddy so much. He has given us two grandsons and a darling little granddaughter who had her fourth birthday on November 4, 1998. She speaks Spanish and is a genius.

*Editor:* What did your work with the denomination include?



Mrs. Rose Bowen

*Rose:* First of all, I was quite involved with my husband's pastoral ministry. Through the years, for example, I directed all the weddings in our churches. It was quite a job, but I really enjoyed it.

I was elected president of the Western District Auxiliary Convention when I was eighteen. At that time, I knew very little about Free Will Baptists, or auxiliary work. I also served as state auxiliary president and national president. So far as I know, I am the only person to do so. I served on the Cragmont Board for years. I served as co-writer with Mr. Bowen and served on the literature committee, helping to write the National and State Auxiliary Manuals. I worked in the National Auxiliary office for years. When the denominational division occurred in 1962, I was asked by the Rev. Bruce Barrow, manager of the Free Will Baptist Press at that time, to write an auxiliary program book for the Woman's Auxiliary. After prayer, I accepted the offer. It was given the name, *Devotion*, and I was the writer for several years. We also had guest writers, but quite often I would write much of the materials. During the years, I have been a contributing writer to other religious magazines. I also served as recording secretary of the North Carolina State Auxiliary Convention.

*Editor:* How long were you and Mr. Bowen married?

*Rose:* For almost fifty years. His death



occurred on January 22, 1984. Our anniversary would have been on May 6, 1984. The women of Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church, where Mr. Bowen was pastor, were making plans to help us celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary. It was going to be "something out of this world."

*Editor:* How did your plans change after his death?

*Rose:* Not long after, I went searching for an apartment. In June of 1984 I entered the Retirement Homes Program. I lived for 12 years in a lovely little home on Lee Street in Ayden. This home was sold and I was moved into Apartment B at 403 N. Lee Street, in July of 1996. I have lived here for about two and a half years.

Due to ill health in recent years, and being near death in 1998, during September and October, and since losing my husband, it has been very difficult for me. There have been many large bills that have not been covered by medicare that I have had to pay this year (1998). Please do not forget the elderly persons who have served and done so much for the Free Will Baptist denomination. We have loved it, but sometimes we have had to struggle.

*Editor:* How do you feel about the Retirement Homes Program?

*Rose:* The Program has encouraged me, done so many things for me, and loved me, and prayed for me. I can't thank God enough for the program. It is so deserving of everyone's support and so much more than our churches are doing. Please include it in your budgets if you have not done so. If we could get greater support, we could help all those on the waiting list who need our help. I pray each day in my devotionals that God will put on the hearts of all the Free Will Baptist churches, individuals who give, Sunday school classes, Auxiliaries, etc., to contribute to the ministry of Retirement Homes.

Remember, the Lord Jesus helped those who couldn't care for themselves, and urged others to do so. Just remember that you young people and middle-age people could at sometime need help. If you respond now, then there could be new places built, money to help, and you would be doing what Jesus would have all Christians to do.

Please respond to the plea I make as a recipient of the program. You will be blessed as never before. Remember, someone in your family might need it, even now. Someday you may need it too. God will pour out His blessings on you that you will not receive from anywhere else. Your cup will "run over."

Please pray for all who are involved in the Retirement Homes Ministry — participants, board members, and those who work for the board, like our very delightful Director, the Rev. (Pop) Bruce Dudley, and our secretary.

God be praised for what you are going to do and continue to do! When Original Free Will Baptists are given the opportunity to do something, they usually respond very well and especially if they are informed. We are counting on YOU.

**Please send all contributions to:  
Retirement Homes, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513**

## Registration Form Cragmont Woman's Conference

### Morning Star April 9-11, 1999

Speaker: Deborah King

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this registration form along with a \$20 deposit to:**

**Teresa M. Ball  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530**

A balance of \$30 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont  
Mark you calendar for the weeks of camp: June 7-12 and  
August 2-7

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## Cragmont Youth Conference June 14-19, 1999

**Bryant Hines and Craig Simmons, Co-Directors**

In response to the increasing need for more young people to have the opportunity to enjoy one of the greatest experiences of a lifetime — Cragmont is pleased to announce the establishment of a new week of summer camp — Cragmont Youth Conference.

Bryant Hines and Craig Simmons — from the very successful July General Youth Conference — will be directing this new camping experience. (Don't worry GYC faithful — they'll still be working with General Youth in July.)

Designed for kids who have completed the third grade through high school, this new week of camp will be filled with music, study, worship and fun.

For more information about Cragmont's newest camping opportunity — watch for future articles in *The Free Will Baptist* — or call Bryant Hines at 252-633-2683 or Craig Simmons at 252-633-9838.



# ***FWB Church Dinners Goal Surpassed***

Thanks to the generosity of Free Will Baptists across eastern North Carolina, the College surpassed its 1998 dinner program fund-raising goal by more than \$20,000.

Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, says the gifts received this fall will go a long way towards helping students receive a quality college education.

The total goal for a dinner was \$382,025. Gifts received through 17 countywide dinners during October and November totaled \$402,086, with a record number of 1,849 donors becoming a Bridge Builder (a donor who gives an unrestricted gift of \$100 or more at the dinner.) Since 1963 Free Will Baptists have contributed more than \$6.2 million through the dinners.

Mrs. Ackiss says these gifts will make a difference in the lives of the more than 1,700 students currently attending the College in Mount Olive, Goldsboro, New Bern, Wilmington, and the Research Triangle Park.

"It was in 1951 that the Free Will Baptist Church made a decision to begin a ministry of Christian higher education by bringing Mount Olive College into existence. It is a privilege to serve with approximately 400 volunteers who join hands with us in the ministry of the Church," stated Mrs. Ackiss.

## **Mount Olive College 1998 Free Will Baptist Church Dinner Program**

County	1997 Bridge Builders	1997 Gifts	1998 Bridge Builders	1998 Gifts	1998 Goal	Amount Over/Under Goal	County Chairman
Beaufort	58	\$13,052	64	\$13,223	\$13,425	(\$202)	Billy Gurkin
Carteret	67	\$14,366	80	\$15,124	\$14,875	\$249	Sheri S. Noonan & Edgar Pake, Jr.
Craven	85	\$19,500	82	\$19,705	\$21,025	(\$1,320)	Roy Wetherington
Duplin	66	\$15,425	69	\$17,847	\$15,725	\$2,122	Tommy Benson
Edgecombe	46	\$6,875	51	\$7,814	\$6,875	\$939	Luther Bissette
Greene	129	\$24,990	133	\$26,547	\$25,175	\$1,372	Randy Beaman & Genevieve M. Taylor
Johnston-Wake	207	\$47,209	230	\$50,292	\$49,125	\$1,167	Keenan Hinnant & Teresa A. Speer
Jones	23	\$5,275	28	\$7,070	\$5,250	\$1,820	Mildred Jenkins
Lenoir	108	\$19,571	119	\$21,512	\$21,100	\$412	Jeff Daughtry
Nash	46	\$10,825	48	\$12,469	\$11,475	\$994	John R. Manning
Onslow-Brunswick	20	\$4,104	20	\$4,105	\$3,925	\$180	Ronnie Parker
Pamlico	46	\$9,170	62	\$10,420	\$9,700	\$720	Debbie Whorton & Judy Thaanum
Pitt	147	\$32,210	147	\$31,909	\$33,925	(\$2,016)	Jane T. Tripp
Sampson, Harnett, & Cumberland	193	\$37,933	196	\$38,442	\$38,375	\$67	Lee Morton Jernigan
Washington, Martin, Tyrrel & Pasquotank	59	\$18,088	62	\$18,035	\$18,075	(\$40)	David Cahoon
Wayne	206	\$57,854	242	\$64,977	\$56,050	\$8,927	Joyce Edmundson
Wilson	194	\$35,922	216	\$42,595	\$37,925	\$4,670	Richard Holmes
Special	2	\$200					
<b>Total</b>	<b>1702</b>	<b>\$372,569</b>	<b>1849</b>	<b>\$402,086</b>	<b>\$382,025</b>	<b>\$20,061</b>	

## Mount Olive College January 1999 Events

### State Youth Convention Executive Committee Meeting Saturday, January 9 • 9:00 AM • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

The Executive Committee of the Original Free Will Baptists Youth Fellowship Auxiliaries will meet in the Hennessee Room of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center to discuss the upcoming State FWB Youth Convention.

### Classes Begin

**Tuesday, January 12**

Spring 1999 Semester begins at Mount Olive College

### Campus Visitation Day

**Monday, January 18 • 9:15 AM • College Hall**

Prospective students and their parents are invited to attend information sessions on admission and financial aid procedures, academic planning, and campus life. Entertainment will be provided by the Mount Olive College Singers, Free Spirit, and the Mount Olive College Concert Choir. Tours will be given by Mount Olive College students. Have lunch with faculty and students in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. For more information, contact Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions at 1-800-653-0854.

### FWB Church Night

**Saturday, January 23 • 5:30 PM • College Hall**

Lady Trojans will take on the Limestone Lady Saints at 5:30 PM and the men will meet the Saints at 7:30 PM. There will be a ball tossing competition at half-time of the women's game; and a free throw and 3 point competition during half-time of the men's game — designate your "best shooter" to compete! Competition in both events will be divided into 3 groups: Grades K-8, Grades 9-12, Out of High School (any age – even Pastors). Special recognition to the church with the largest attendance! Admission is \$1.00. To reserve your tickets, call the Admissions Office today! (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

### Sunday Buffet

**Sundays • 11:30 AM • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

Mount Olive College invites you to our weekly Sunday Buffet. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM. The cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 12 years old and under (includes tax, beverage, dessert).

## *President Grubbs speaks at Founders Day*

Mount Olive College recently celebrated 47 years of service to the Free Will Baptist Church in Christian higher education to young people and adults. Free Will Baptists joined the College's faculty, staff and students on the morning of November 24 for the annual Founders Day worship service at Rodgers Chapel.

The Rev. Leon Grubbs, President of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, was the guest speaker. An alumnus of Mount Olive College, Mr. Grubbs is the long-time pastor of Hull Road Original Free Will Baptist Church near Snow Hill.

Mr. Grubbs gave the history of Mount Olive College and some of his experiences as a student. The 1968 graduate reflected on his family's long-time relationship with the College. His entire family, which includes his mother and father and seven brothers and sisters, are alumni of the College.

"I do appreciate the heritage I have here at Mount Olive College," he said during his speech. "The College has helped my family grow intellectually and spiritually."

He recalled that when his family moved to Mount Olive in 1959, people from the community and several from the College welcomed them to the neighborhood and even helped them unload their truck. The next day his family met with the College faculty and staff for a time of worship. "To say the least, my roots are deeply embedded in the College," he said.

Grubbs said the founders of the College took



*The Rev. Leon Grubbs speaks to students, employees and supporters of the College at the 1998 Founders Day worship service at Rodgers Chapel.*



## *Free Will Baptist Student Crowned Pickle Classic Queen*

Sara Parker, a senior English major from Four Oaks, recently was crowned the 1998 Pickle Classic Queen at the College's Alumni Homecoming Weekend. Sara and her family attend Bethel Free Will Baptist Church in Johnston County.

The crowning ceremony took place during the Mount Olive College Pickle Classic Basketball Tournament. In addition to being an honors student, Sara is on the volleyball and basketball teams. She will graduate in May.

Students and the Mount Olive College Jaycees select the Pickle Classic Queen. The student body selects the top candidates, and the Jaycees interview them and select the most qualified student to represent the school.

*Sara Parker of Four Oaks poses for pictures after being crowned the 1998 Pickle Classic Queen during the Alumni Homecoming Weekend.*



## **The 16th Annual Basketball Church Night**

**Saturday, January 23, 1999**



**Lady Trojans vs. Limestone College**  
5:30 PM, Colledge Hall

**Trojans vs. Limestone College**  
7:30 PM, Colledge Hall

### **Church Involvement**

There will be a ball tossing competition at half-time of the women's game; and a free throw and 3 point competition during half-time of the men's game — designate your "best shooters" to compete! Competition in both events will be divided into 3 groups: Grades K-8, Grades 9-12, Out of High School (any age— even Pastors).

*Special recognition to the church  
with the largest attendance!*

Special Tickets: \$1.00

To reserve your tickets,  
call the Admissions Office today!  
(919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854

## *President Grubbs speaks at Founders Day*

a "bold step of faith" when they only had \$6.17 in the treasury and needed \$25,000 to renovate an abandoned downtown elementary school building. "This college was founded on tremendous vision and faith in God," he said. "We've come along way — a long way."

He said today's institution remains committed to providing students with a quality education that emphasizes character development, Christian faith and values, and a wide range of educational opportunities.

Mr. Grubbs told College administrators and supporters not to compromise on the vision and principles of faith in which the institution was founded. "It continues to be a privilege and responsibility of Free Will Baptists, the trustees, faculty

and staff to promote and maintain these high ideals of Christian faith and the foundation upon which the College was built," he said. "It is my prayer that God will continue to bless Mount Olive College."

The College was chartered by Free Will Baptists in 1951 and opened the following year at Cragmont Assembly near Black Mountain with six students. The institution was originally named Mount Allen Junior College. In 1953, the College moved to Mount Olive to be nearer the center of denominational strength in eastern North Carolina. The name was changed to Mount Olive Junior College. Twenty-two students enrolled in the first collegiate year after the relocation. Now as a four-year institution, the College serves more than 1,700 students in Mount Olive,

Goldsboro, New Bern, Wilmington, and the Research Triangle Park.

During the Founders Day service, Dr. J. William Byrd, President of the College, recognized 20 staff and faculty members for their years of service to the College. The Mount Olive College Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, provided music for the worship service. The Rev. David C. Hansley, General Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, gave the Founders Day prayer. Tommy Yopp, a sophomore from Folkstone Free Will Baptist Church, Folkstone, and Vice President of the Free Will Baptist Fellowship, gave the benediction. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, gave the Scripture reading.



*“Always Do the Best One Can”...  
is Mount Olive College Sophomore Alison Williams’ Standard*

by Sue Griffin Crytzer

The shiny black limousine pulled up to “That Big White House” as her expanded family clapped and yelled, “Alison, be home by 10:00 PM tonight from the prom! We’ll be waiting for you!” Alison Williams, sophomore at Mount Olive College, is beaming all over as she recalls some of her precious and rare childhood memories. Yes, living in her unique mountain home known as *Cragmont* has been different for her than most of her peers at the College. It was January, 1980 that this precious, smiling nine-month old baby girl arrived in Black Mountain, NC to grow up with her family roots sealed in the Free Will Baptist Christian faith. Alison truly credits her parents, John and Arlinda, who instilled in her the vision to apply and enter Mount Olive College in 1997. She states that the quality time along with a real closeness with her family and so many lasting friendships have shaped her entire life. She is reaping the rewards of her *Cragmont* home friendships as she shares a dorm room with Danielle Jennings, from Reedy Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Pitt County. It is through these close Christian relationships with Free Will Baptist families that she continues to renew friendships made from her past as she makes

a difference at Mount Olive College.

Through the Free Will Baptist Tuition Grant, Alison assists Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, with dinners held each fall for Free Will Baptist churches throughout eastern North Carolina. Known as “Miss Jean” to students, her additional hands-on training provides a wealth of leadership and service skills to Alison who excels on the campus.

It is lots of studying, long work hours, stuffing church packets, manning the College’s display table, lots of riding to the church dinners, and her talks with ‘Miss Jean’ that are making unforgettable college memories. Alison smiles broadly while she talks of her special experiences and friendships, which are shaping her life at Mount Olive College. “Everyone needs a genuine friend like ‘Miss Jean.’ She checks on me every few days as she touches my life in so many special ways,” states Alison. Referring to the College, Alison comments, “One of the most noticeable differences offered at Mount Olive is the genuine, personal caring that the staff and faculty possess.”

Alison’s determination “to do the best one can and then move on” is evident in her daily campus life. She is a very focused young lady who is expanding her horizons in making a significant difference in so many lives. She says she is truly excited to be attending a college sponsored by Original Free Will Baptists. Working with Mrs. Ackiss has helped to make her more aware of the strong relationship the College shares with the Free Will Baptist Church.

We are especially proud to already call Alison Williams a future alumna as she leads as Vice President of the Alumni Undergraduate Club at the College. Additionally, she participates as an active member of the Fellowship of Christian Students. Thank you, Alison, for your faithful commitment to your faith, family, friends, and to Mount Olive College.

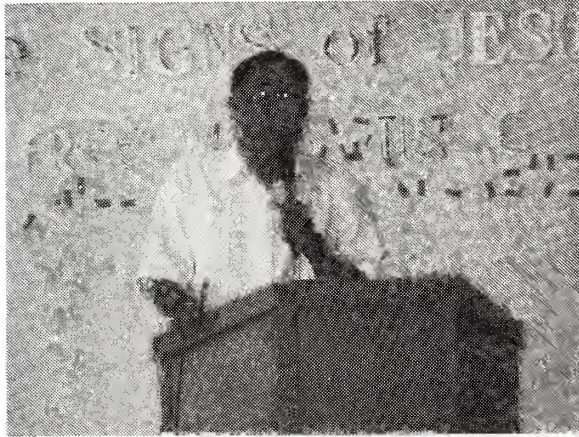
*Alison Williams, an outstanding sophomore at Mount Olive College, is the daughter of John and Arlinda Williams of Cragmont and “sister” of Danielle. It was at Mount Olive College that her parents met as students and married. Both parents are very active as alumni of the College. Alison is pictured below, with her parents during a recent visit to the campus.*





## Some Very Important Tested Strategies in Soul Winning

by the Rev. Zacarias Perocillo



The Rev. Zacarias Perocillo

Since 1952, when this writer was converted to the evangelical Christianity from Roman Catholicism, he has always been involved in the most important work of the Church and that is soul winning. He has read so many articles about evangelism and soul winning before he studied in the seminary and even until now. One thing he knows and has experienced; that until a person truly hears and listens to the gospel, convicted of his sin and have repented, he will never be converted and become a born-again Christian.

This born-again experience is the secret that will make one an effective soul-winner. For no one could truly explain in words the gospel until one has heard and has listened to it. The word listen means "to obey." This is the secret of Jesus Christ. He listened to God the Father and even submitted to the sacrifice at the Cross of Calvary. So when Jesus speaks, He spoke with authority, such that the tired and discouraged fishermen listened to Him and cast their nets in the deep and caught so many fishes. But even at that, the fishermen left their boats, nets, and families and they followed Jesus and became fishers of men all their life.

So, no one can make a flimsy reason saying that Jesus can easily do this because He is the Son of God. Jesus himself said in essence that we, His

followers, can perform a better evangelistic work and bring more souls to Christ if only we obey what Jesus told us to do.

The question, however, is how will we be able to attract the attention of busy, tired and frustrated people in our time? My personal observation and experience regarding this aforementioned people in a cross-cultural context, be it among Westerners and Asians, is such that, first and

foremost, we should pray and pray before going to witness. For to witness means to literally become a martyr, but it is a very thrilling thing and very enjoyable if the Spirit of God inspires and guides. Also it is very important that, a witness should respect one's self. By preparing himself in his personal appearance, that by his look he can demand respect from people, by knowing and mastering what to say in any given opportunity to witness, be it a speaking engagement or a one-to-one witnessing; in such a way that whatever he says carries with it weight to the hearers, and penetrates the heart and mind of the listeners. This is so when the witness is anointed, having been really called and sent to the Ministry of the gospel and also filled and anointed by the Holy Spirit.

When a person has truly heard and listened and has received the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour, we praise the Lord! But I tell you, this is only the initial step, the person must be invited and be planted to a local church and must enjoy fellowship. Not only get involved with the church on Sundays and other special occasions, but very important, in the Philippine context, he or she must be baptized by immersion. After water baptism the person must be exposed to a Biblical discipling, not only teaching them about the levels of faith but expose him

to become a real witness. Getting established in the faith in and amidst persecutions makes the person's faith more valuable. The paradox here is that faith is freely given but when you stand for it with sacrifices, faith becomes so dear that one will even give his life in order to enjoy a much better life in Jesus, even in this life. We have known this by experience. This was what actually happened to the life of the twelve disciples, except Judas, but including Paul. They sacrificed because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Because of their experiences, their faith was so valuable to them and so enjoyable that they could joyfully sing even when in prison.

Discipling is the key to the production of effective witnesses and church planters. They may not be so many at the beginning like what Jesus did, but when they are thoroughly disciplined they can preach to thousands of people in the whole country and later on to many countries, and bring in thousands of souls to the altar. But if we teach them only to come to church but not to go and witness, they will come, but they will stop coming because they have not made witnessing a part of their lives, when in fact evangelism is the lifeblood of the Church.

One important factor that will add to church growth is to become discontented over very few church members. If this is so, the church workers and lay people will strike hard to evangelize. In such a way, many will be brought to the church because as many seeds are planted many will germinate and grow.

Also, broadcast seeds of the gospel in the cities and big towns, as the Rev. Harold Jones stated in the *Command* newsletter. Plant churches in the cities and big towns so it could support the finances needed by that church; and not always depend with foreign support all the time. So, this writer says "plant churches where millions of people are"

# JANUARY

Prayer

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Things

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
27	28	29	30
3	4	5	6
10	11	12 MOC Classes Begin	13
17	18 MOC Campus Visitation Day College Hall, 9:15 AM	19	20
24 MOC Scholarship Day 31	25	26	27



Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Remember \_\_\_\_\_

THU		FRI	SAT
31	1 FWB Press Closed Bible and Bookstores Closed Headquarter's Closed  <i>New Years Day</i>	2	
7	8	9 State Youth Convention Executive Committee, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, 9:00 AM	
14	15	16 Woman's Auxiliary Executive Board Meeting	
21	22	23 MOC FWB Church Night College Hall, 5:30 PM	
28	29	30	

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

*Some Very Important Tested Strategies in Soul Winning, Cont....*

and do exploits. This is what St. Paul did during his time. He preached the gospel in the cosmopolitan, where the people are. He even went to Rome and preached before the heads of state. Are we not the ambassadors of the King of Kings? Why then should we be shy to face the rich and the powerful?

Now is the time to preach the gospel where Christ leads. Jesus is coming soon. We are experiencing tremendous problems affecting mankind, especially the Philippines, and even in the whole world. Famine, crime, wickedness of all kind, are so rampant! It is a good timing

because when people have so many problems, they will look for someone to help. Naturally, they will think of God.

In view of this present world situation, the Christian Church and the Free Will Baptists in particular need preachers to preach to these lost people. We need effective preachers for the miserable souls. But how to produce them is the problem. Continuous discipling even with our workers now assigned in the field is a must. They in turn will continue to disciple their church members in order that someday

every member will also become missionaries like the disciples of old. And those who refuse to follow Jesus' way of evangelizing the world, I am praying that the Lord will find a way of pulling them out from their present assignment. Rotten fruit contaminates and makes good fruits rotten, when placed together.

Yes, we need preachers, but one with quality and not just quantity. So, let us pray that God will send more preachers, even those who are with us right now!

## *Special Prayer Requests from the Board of Foreign Missions*

1. The churches in India are under severe persecution at this time from the communalist Hindus. This is a very serious situation and I cannot over express the urgency of prayer for the protection of our pastors, teachers, churches, and schools at this time. Please do not take this lightly, but seriously pray! God is able to reverse this situation and to gain victory, but we *must* pray.
2. Pray for Jennifer, the little five-year-old girl from the Philippines that was featured in the December *Command*. Her only hope is a miracle from God.
3. Pray for our Short-Term Teams to the Philippines and Mexico in 1999. God is bringing together the right team members for this ministry. Pray for safety, protection, and harmony among team members. It is a great responsibility to take these teams around the world and we surely must put our trust in the Lord.
4. Pray for all our workers. There are 255 who work on our five mission fields. They need the strength of your prayers daily.
5. Pray that our Denomination would fully realize the responsibility we have to reach the world with the gospel. We need greater prayer and financial support, and this will come when Christians truly realize that people outside of Christ are lost.
6. Pray for the financial needs of Foreign Missions. Funding is below the budget.
7. Pray for the 1999 World Missions Conference that will be held on February 28. Our desire this year is to attract and interest the youth of our churches in missions.
8. Pray for the 1999 Telethon. Our goal is \$135,000. We need the greatest Telethon ever just to catch up on our budget.
9. Pray for the Board of Foreign Missions to have the wisdom of God to do His perfect will in this ministry.
10. Pray for revival. God desires to do a great work among Free Will Baptists, but we must pray!

### *Mexico STT Project 1999*

The Short-Term Team project for Mexico next summer will be the construction of a parsonage at the El Salvador Free Will Baptist Church in Piedras Negras. The Rains Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church and Auxiliary raised \$9,025 for this project. We sincerely appreciate the church providing funds for this parsonage. The pastor of El Salvador is the Rev. Armando Duenez. He and his family will be greatly blessed by this new house. The June and July teams will construct this parsonage.

There are many special projects and "Build One For Them" opportunities available for other churches to experience the joy of helping others. Please prayerfully consider this and contact the Board of Foreign Missions for more information.



# Encampment In Morelos, Mexico

by Raquel Agüero

The first encampment for me was an unforgettable experience, even before it began.

When we were told in 1997 of a plan to have an encampment, I purposed in my heart to be there, I felt that something special would happen in my life. And so it did! Since then, I have been richly blessed and have had greater charge of my work in the church.

I had been without employment for a year, but managed to find a good secular job. But when the date for the encampment was near, the job that had been for me a blessing now appeared to be an obstacle for me to attend the encampment, but the Lord helped me along the way.

On August 17, 1998, I was able to be at the encampment in Morelos, Mexico, surrounded by my brethren and willing that my heavenly Father speak to my life in all that I would see, hear or happen during this time. And I learned something from all of this.

In those days of encampment, I remembered what the Psalmist said in Psalm 104:31-34 and I rejoiced greatly in Jehovah. The lessons taught always brought something new to my soul.

During the time of worship the service were lengthy, but even so I was happy worshipping my God. Listening to the reading of the passages of Scripture reminded me of the Creator and Sustainer who is my Father and who would do marvelous things with me day by day.

What really was agreeable to me was the fellowship that we had: we got to know each other better and got closer to each other. Even the brethren who did not speak Spanish made themselves understood and spoke to everyone. We helped each other, we sang, we laughed, and

we played games. We had moments that were so agreeable that it made me forget the daily routine of the job where I work and feel more and more the peace and the joy that the Lord gives.

I praise the Lord for the realization of this encampment and thank the Jones' for their vision of such a great place! God willing, I shall be there next encampment of 1999.



Raquel Agüero (far left).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 28, 1999

### Annual World Missions Conference

College Hall  
Mount Olive College  
5-8 PM  
Light Meal Served

Special Guest  
Steve Chamblin and YWAM Team  
(Youth With A Mission)

Theme:  
The Whole Church Involved in World Missions

*Plan to attend and bring your Youth!*

March 28, 1999

### Foreign Missions Annual Telethon

Theme:  
Things That Really Matter to God

Goal 1999:  
A total of \$135,000  
in gifts on Telethon Sunday

Pray Daily for this Goal.



# Project Kids Kare

Many children in America are in need and will be Touched For A Lifetime by Project Kids Kare, a ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism. You, your family, your church, class or organization can join others in this unique project helping to reach children in America.

When a child receives a box, they will open it to find gifts and the good news of Jesus Christ, the good news of the wonderful love of Jesus through you.

Pray for the children that will receive your gift box. All across America, beginning in Ayden, NC, with outreach through the police department and community to community, your love and concern will make a difference in a child and family's life.

For more information contact: Home Missions & Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, 252-746-4963.



*Ayden Police officer Kelly Guard receives 20 Kids Kare boxes. Mrs. Andrea Cox, Home Missions and Evangelism Secretary, assists officer Guard in loading the boxes.*



**Project Kids Kare**

is a ministry of  
Home Missions and Evangelism  
of Original Free Will Baptists.



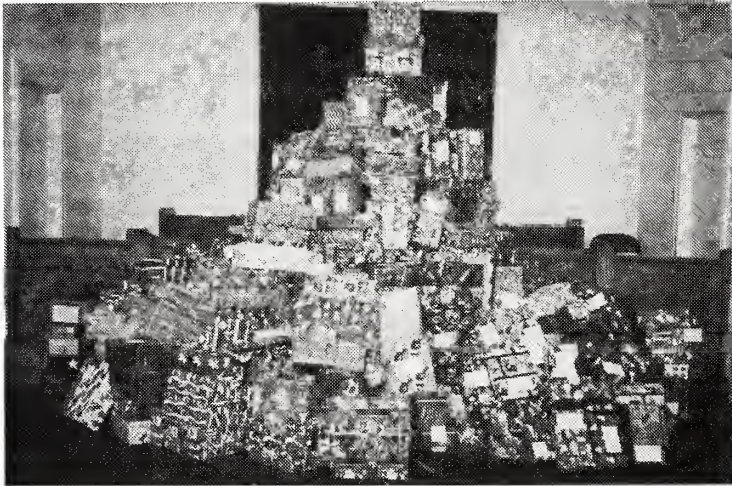
*The Rev. Al Markuson, Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, assists officer Guard in loading the boxes donated by Core Creek Free Will Baptist Church.*



*The Rev. Bruce Dudley, Executive Director of Retirement Homes Ministry, helps by collecting 15 boxes from Russell's Creek Free Will Baptist Church and bringing them to Home Missions and Evangelism.*



## A Child Evangelism Project *Project Kids Kare*



Cape Fear Youth Rally Group

The Cape Fear Conference Youth Fellowship collected 413 boxes with \$2,065.00 in contributions at their November meeting at Robert's Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Dunn, NC. Once collected, a group sorted and checked each box and prepared them for pickup. Plans are now being formulated to appoint teams to deliver the boxes to children across America and at home.

### CHURCH FINANCE

#### Notice of Annual Meeting of Membership Holders to Be Held February 16, 1999

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Church Finance Association, Inc. will be held as follows:

Place: Spring Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina  
Date: February 16, 1999  
Time: 10:30 AM

The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To review the financial conditions of the Association and to act on the financial report.
2. The election of one (1) member of the Board of Directors to hold office for a term of five years.
3. The transaction of any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
William D. Thigpen, Secretary



## Christmas Events

Christmas was a busy time for our residents this past year. Many individuals, churches, and businesses provided activities and gifts to the residents of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

## Glaxo Wellcome

On December 9, Glaxo Wellcome visited campus for their annual Christmas party with our residents. Santa Claus took time out and gave the resident gifts. Besides giving them gifts, they served yummy refreshments, provided board games, kitchen supplies and presented Dr. Bobby Taylor with a check for the Children's Home. While they were here, Glenda Phillips, Director of Children's Services presented Glaxo Wellcome with a plaque, to show our deepest appreciation for all they do for our staff and residents throughout the year.



## PYA/Monarch of Zebulon

On December 8, PYA/Monarch of Zebulon came to the campus and cooked dinner for the residents and staff. PYA/Monarch is the food distributor for the Children's Home. The meal was prepared by a well known chef and involved some resident participation. The meal included chicken breast with raspberry cream sauce, fresh steamed broccoli, rice, rolls, and a fancy dessert. (Pictured below.)



## Thank You

The Children and Staff at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home would like to thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness during the '98 Christmas season. Words cannot express how much we all appreciate the responses to our Christmas Sponsorship and annual Christmas campaigns that were provided for the children. May the Lord bless you and reward you greatly for your dedicated service to our children. We love you and wish you a great New Year!

## New Group Home for Boys

The Free Will Baptist Children's Home is pleased to announce the start of a new project. On November 19, 1998, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to purchase property for a new Boy's Group Home. The Home is located five miles outside Bailey and just a few minutes from the Middlesex campus. Our goal is to open in March 1999. There is much work and preparation to be done including obtaining licenses, furnishings, hiring new staff and developing a quality boys program. We are excited about this new opportunity to reach out to more children. Please continue to pray for our ministry as we strive to continue our mission to children. (Pictured right.)







## "Pastor Appreciation Day"

On Sunday, October 25, 1998, Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church of Bladenboro, North Carolina, celebrated "Pastor Appreciation Day." What a great day! Oak Grove congregation had the opportunity to say "thank you" to the Rev. and Mrs. James B. Hardee for forty years of faithful and dedicated service. We were able to celebrate the lives of a faithful minister of the gospel and his wife.

Mr. G. C. Bryan opened the Sunday morning worship service by sharing a little history on the couple since first coming to Oak Grove in 1958. The Rev. Hardee was born February 6, 1931, in Bladenboro, North Carolina on the Mill Hill to Hiram Bradley Hardee and Fadie Lucille Rich Hardee. He had five sisters and two brothers. His family moved to Columbus County in the Union Valley Community and Mr. Hardee attended Union Valley Baptist Church. He went to Whiteville High School and worked with Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

Mr. Hardee married Nancy Ward in 1951. One year after their marriage, he was called to service with the United States Marine Corp. Parris Island, South Carolina was where he completed training, and he was later stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He was converted in a tent meeting outside the camp gates in Onslow County. After giving his heart to the Lord, God called him into the ministry of preaching His Word.

On August 9, 1954, Devonna, their first child, was born. In October of 1954, Mr. Hardee was licensed to preach for Cypress Creek Church in Whiteville, North Carolina. In the years of 1954 and 1955, he preached at all the churches in the Pee Dee Association as well as serving as assistant pastor of Abbottsburg Original Free Will Baptist Church, which was under the leadership of the Rev. Carey Cheshire.

On October 14, 1955, Mr. Hardee was



*Mrs. Nancy Hardee, Rev. James B. Hardee and Mr. Elwood Bryan*

ordained at Oak Grove Church during the Annual Conference. His first pastorate was at Mount Calvary Church in Columbus County on a half-time basis; he also pastored two other churches on quarter-time. So you can truly see how he has loved pastoring from the very beginning. During his years in the ministry, he has pastored Mount Calvary, Pine Level, Little Bethel, Mission Valley, Mount Olive, and Oak Grove Church.

Another very important date in the lives of Billy and Nancy Hardee was February 25, 1957, when their son Daryl was born, and on that same day Mr. Hardee was hired by Nathan Lee to work for Holsum Bread Company. He worked with the company until retirement.

They are the proud grandparents of Bridget, Amanda, and Kristen Beard and Jessica and Adam Hardee. They have one daughter-in-law, Teresa and one son-in-law, Willie Beard.

For us now and all those who have been here at Oak Grove Church since 1958, that was an important year because that was the year Mr. Hardee became our pastor. First he was with us on a quarter-time basis; then several years later, it changed to half-time. In

1975, Oak Grove Church called him full time.

Some of the various activities and positions Mr. Hardee has been involved in are:

- The Free Will Baptist Press
- Moderator of the Pee Dee Association
- The Free Will Baptist Children's Home
- The Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes
- Moderator of Union #1 Pee Dee Association
- Representative Pee Dee Association on Revision Committee for Articles of Faith
- Master of Ceremonies Bladen County Fifth Sunday Nigh Singing.
- Chaplain of Bladen County Hospital
- Governor's Award for Community Service

Mrs. Hardee has been by the Rev. Hardee's side through it all while holding a public job as well. She has been very active in the Oak Grove Woman's Auxiliary and Pee Dee District Auxiliary. She has also served on the Board of Cragmont Assembly representing the Pee Dee Association.

The events of the day were a total surprise to Mr. Hardee. The deacon board, which consists of Mr. Elwood Bryan, Mr. Miles Edwards, Mr. Fred Pait, Mr. David Pait, and Mr. Jack Thompson, asked the Rev. and Mrs. Hardee to come forth and receive a plaque of appreciation. Mr. Elwood Bryan, Chairman of the Deacon Board, presented the plaque with the following inscription:

*"Lovingly presented to Rev. and Mrs. James B. Hardee for forty years of faithful dedicated service. Your tireless work in helping us to follow Christ has been a shining example of His love for us."*

*The congregation of Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church  
October 25, 1998*



# People & Events

## "Pastor Appreciation Day" cont...

A money tree was set up in the front of the church. Small children were first to place their cards of appreciation on the tree, next those 40 years or younger, and last — those over 40 years. Mr. G.C. Bryan asked each member to come up and shake hands with the Rev. and Mrs. Hardee and to express to them their love and thanks for the encouragement, compassion, and guidance they both had shown and so freely given through the years to everyone in the church and community. After the congregation was seated Mrs. Barbara Bryan dedicated a special song to them, "Thank You."

The morning message was delivered by the Rev. George Benton.

After the worship service, dinner was prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Bryan, Mrs. Linda Bryan, and Mrs. Wilma Storms and was served in the Fellowship Hall.

The members of Oak Grove feel very blessed that God has allowed us to have the same pastor for forty years. Preacher Hardee and Nancy, we love and appreciate you both so much and feel that we (the congregation of Oak Grove) are the ones receiving the greater honor by having you in our midst as our fellow workers, friends, and a brother and sister in Christ.

## Hugo Honors Pastor with 20 Years Plus Service

*submitted by Mary Lou Johnson, Church Reporter*

On Sunday, November 1, 1998, Hugo Free Will Baptist Church, 3122 Grifton-Hugo Road, Grifton, NC, honored the Rev. and Mrs. Tom Miller at the morning worship service. They were presented a personal plaque and informed that a permanent plaque showing the dates of their service would be put on the outside of the church in the near future. The church purchased new hymnals and these were dedicated in their honor.

That afternoon they were honored by a reception in the church fellowship hall. Many old friends, members, and family came by to pay honor to those two Christian leaders.

Mr. Miller began attending Hugo Church with his parents as a child. He was licensed to preach January 11, 1967, and ordained July 2, 1967. He pastored at Trinity and Grimsely Churches before beginning at Hugo in July 1978.

Mrs. Miller has been a Sunday school teacher of several classes and is now teacher of the Primary Class. She has also been very active in the Woman's Auxiliary, serving as program-prayer chairman for many years.

In closing we would like to say thank you to "Mr. Tom" for setting a very good example for the people at Hugo by preaching from the Bible and living what he preached!

*Pictured right: the Rev. and Mrs. Tom Miller*



## New Pastor at Hugo Free Will Baptist Church

*submitted by Mary Lou Johnson, Church Reporter*

The Rev. Edward Thornton has been chosen as the new pastor at Hugo Church, 3122 Grifton-Hugo Road, Grifton, NC. The Rev. Thornton and his wife, Brenda, reside in Snow Hill with their son Neil. They have two other children.

On Sunday, November 8, 1998 following the morning worship service, the Rev. and Mrs. Thornton were honored at a dinner in the church fellowship hall.

We are looking forward to their service to our church.  
*Left: Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. Miller, Right: the Rev. Thornton and Tom Miller*



## Central Conference Ministers Update

In its meeting on November 5, 1998, the Central Conference welcomed three new ministers into the Conference: The Revs. Grady Tucker, Brad Williamson, and John Robert Harris.

The Conference also welcomed two new licensed ministers into the Conference: Mr. Johnny Ralph Sullivan (Daniels Chapel Church), and Mr. David Varnell (Owens Chapel Church).

The Conference had two ministers that voluntarily surrendered their Ordination: the Rev. Scott Sowers, and the Rev. Glenn Mills.



## Blessings to You in 1999

submitted by Rita Otto Jones

November 7 brought double blessings to Powhatan. The *Four In Christ* came for their annual visit and performed to a full house. The youth group attended the Saturday night rally at Robert's Grove on the same evening and brought back the Youth Attendance banner with 18 youth present. Contributions were made by many members to the "mountain" of show-box gifts collected for the Kids Kare Project. The Powhatan group enjoyed a meal and fellowship together at the Pizza Inn at Selma following the Rally.

We wish to send condolences to the family of Howard Lamm who passed away the following week. He was the father-in-law of *Four In Christ* quartet member, Benny Ray Everington.

Veterans were honored during the worship service on November 8. The Ladies Auxiliary had purchased and placed American flags at the graves of the 11 veterans buried in the church cemetery. One Confederate flag was also bought and placed at the grave of Isaac W. Jones, the only known Confederate veteran, in honor of his military service. The Auxiliary also gave lapel pins to any veterans in attendance. It was a special Veteran's Day "thank you" to all who have served God and country in the armed forces.

The Ladies Auxiliary also hosted a study course on prayer on Wednesday, November 11. Member Sandy Markle was the speaker and said humility was an important part of praying. We must always remember to ask "within" God's will, not our own.

Thank you to Kathy and David Allen and all others who helped to surprise the Youth with a hot dog supper following Christmas play practice on November 14.

Everyone received a blessing as Yvonne Greene of Everett Chapel presented our Pre-Thanksgiving program on November 18.

The joint Thanksgiving service in song was hosted by Powhatan on November 25 with choirs from Amelia and Everett Chapel in attendance. It was a joyous service with standing room only. Thank you to the visiting groups as well as our own Adult and Youth Choirs.

## Mount Zion Children's Church

by Veronica Haskett

No, that's not Brother Billy Reynolds in the pulpit. It's one of the young people of Mount Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Roper, NC, Justin Smith. He was the substitute preacher for our Sunday morning service on November 29. It was quite an inspiration to watch the youth of the church fill the shoes of the adults. A ministry in song was shared with the congregation by the Booster Band, Children's Choir and the Youth Choir. A special was rendered by the Little Ladies Trio.

After prayer by Justin Hassell, the offering was received. Ushers, Luke Oliver and Joey Oliver had distributed socks to everyone when passing out the church bulletins. Clipped to the sock was this little poem:

Good morning, We greet you with this sock,  
From little leaders of His flocks.  
Our Building Fund is rather low,  
Your love offering will make us glow.  
Just little people doing our share,  
Children's Church really cares.  
Thank you one and all,  
For Mount Zion's Fellowship Hall  
P.S. — Don't forget!  
Place your sock in the offering plate.  
Again we greatly appreciate.

We are pleased to announce that our Children's Church collected over \$500.00 to go toward our new project, the Fellowship Hall. Praise the Lord!

James 4:10 says: "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." Watching these small innocent children, and listening to them and realizing that everything they are doing or saying is coming from their hearts, that's the point that Brother Billy and other pastors are trying to get across. To reach our wonderful destination "Heaven," we as Christians have to humble ourselves to our Lord, just like these dear little children.

Mount Zion children will be holding the morning worship every fifth Sunday. This was truly enjoyed by everyone. Each person participating, whether it was singing, reading, praying or ushering, they all were sure to touch your heart. We all go to church to worship our wonderful Lord and praise Him for everything He does for us and hopefully receive a blessing before we leave. This special group of young people that the Lord has so graciously sent to our church, gave us a wonderful blessing.

*Justin Smith, photo during Children's Church, Mt. Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Roper, NC.*





# People & Events

## Smithfield Church Auxiliary Answers Call to "Build One For Them"

Submitted by June Wallace, Auxiliary President

The Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church Woman's Auxiliary has recently joined the "Build One For Them" project sponsored by the Board of Foreign Missions. We invited the Rev. Harold Jones, Foreign Missions Director, to our study course on missions and presented a check to him to cover the costs for the construction of a church at Abo Abo in the Philippines. The Rev. Jones showed slides of missions work at all of our posts and brought us a snapshot of the makeshift structure currently being used for worship at Abo Abo. We looked around at our church (the carpets, the stained glass) and were touched by the great need for even the most basic of amenities for these Philippine worshippers. The Rev. Jones has promised to keep us informed of progress being made on the building. Our group has hopes of continued involvement with the Abo Abo congregation.

We are especially excited over the "Build One For Them" project because it puts a name, a face and a dollar amount on missions work. This lets us know that we really are a part of a particular mission need.

Enthusiasm has been high for this opportunity to "put our money where our mouth is," so to speak, in support of missions. We had earned the money over several years at our annual Bazaar and Chicken Pastry Supper. We finally decided the time was right to do something for others, rather than for our own church. As one of our members said, "You can't out give God. He'll bless our efforts this fall, and we'll be able to do this again soon." We have a mission bulletin board displayed in our Fellowship Hall with a caption taken from Proverbs 3:27, that expresses our feelings about this project: "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it." Thank you, God, for this power.



Hopewell auxiliary president, June Wallace, presents a check to Harold Jones for construction of a church at Abo Abo in the Philippines. Also pictured are Scott Casey, pastor, and Grace Barbour, auxiliary mission chairperson.

## Eastern District Study Course in February

submitted by Nina Grace Register,  
Eastern District Study Course Chairperson

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary will sponsor a district study course on Stewardship at First Free Will Baptist Church, 314 W. Lenoir Ave., Kinston, at 10:00 AM, Saturday, February 6, 1999, (with ice or winter storm date two weeks later.) Registration will begin at 9:30 in the church Fellowship Hall.

"Who You Are When No One's Looking," by Bill Hybels, is the book to be studied. The book shows us how to choose consistency in our life with no compromises. It is published by Inter-Varsity Press.

Deborah King, newly-elected State Study Course Chairman, will conduct the study. She and her husband, Wayne, are now associated with the First Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson. They served several years as missionaries in the Philippines. Mrs. King is a frequent speaker at various State and local meetings, Cragmont, and prayer groups.

Join us at Kinston and let this be your first study course in the New Year.

## CORRECTIONS, PLEASE!

The December issue of *The Free Will Baptist* quoted the price of the 1999 *Devotion* at \$4.50 per copy. The correct price is \$4.75. Please note this in placing your orders.

We regret the inconvenience this may have caused anyone.

Order from  
The Free Will Baptist Press  
PO Box 159  
811 North Lee Street  
Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159

Also, the price of the Youth Program Books were incorrectly priced. All three, *Cherubs*, *AFC*, and *YFA*, are \$4.50 per copy.



## History of Ladies Aid Society of Zion Free Will Baptist Church, Blakely, Georgia

According to the information we have been able to obtain from old church records and peoples' memories, this Ladies Aid Society was organized by the Rev. W. T. Wiley and his wife in 1932 or 1933. At Brother Wiley's suggestion, "Miss Ella," as she was affectionately called, organized this Society with his help. She was the first president, with Mrs. J. S. Anderson as Secretary and Treasurer. This group of ladies was very organized in the way it conducted the business of this organization. They were able, in their businesslike way, to support all phases of the denominational program. In 1934, they purchased a communion table as well as a piano, paying for it by having ice-cream suppers, saving their eggs, selling some of their chickens, and by making and selling quilts. Our dues were ten cents a meeting; the roll was called and dues paid as each lady answered. We contributed for a young lady, Miss Lacy Mae Ward, to attend the Bible school. A Bible was purchased for our church at a cost of \$3.70. Our meetings were reported in the *Early County News*. Each lady was asked to bring something to sell (jelly, preserves, canned goods, etc.) each time we had an ice-cream supper. We ordered four yearbooks because each monthly program usually contained four parts, and we could take turns using the books as we were on the program. We had five Vice-Presidents with the following duties:

**First Vice-President:** Report number of members and number of subscriptions to the denominational magazine.

**Second Vice-President:** Support Christian education, Vacation Bible school, Bible readers, and study classes.

**Third Vice-President:** Observe Week of Prayer, number of boxes for the needy overseas, and blankets for Biblé School in Cuba.

**Fourth Vice-President:** Conduct Stewardship classes, report number of tithers, number of Bibles given, and average attendance.

**Fifth Vice-President:** Ministerial relief, orphanage, sick visits, trays, flowers, etc., cottage prayer meetings, and soul winning. Urged to carry out the Great Commission.

The Ladies Aid Society regularly planned pantry showers for Zion's Bible School, and contributed regularly to our Youth Camp. Brother Wiley and Brother T.B. Mellette attended our meetings, guiding us in the way that we should carry out our Lord's will. Mrs. Dennis Johnson served as Secretary-Treasurer longer than any other lady.

On one occasion we saved our Sunday eggs and added our dues to it. This money was given to Mr. John Shelton Anderson to buy paint for the church. This amount totaled \$21.79 plus \$4.00 for brushes. We paid the Rev. Luther Norris \$5.00 to remove the old paint and \$15.00 to paint the church.

We organized a Ladies Aid Society at New Enterprise Church in Blakely. This organization, Zion Ladies Auxiliary, has been active for 65 years and has been an asset to this church.

### Members of Zion Church Ladies Aid Society

Mrs. W. T. Wiley  
 Mrs. Laurie Anderson  
 Mrs. Laura Wiley  
 Mrs. W. F. McDuffie  
 Mrs. Tolar  
 Mrs. Elbert Brown

Mrs. R. E. Mills  
 Mrs. Martin Still  
 Mrs. T. B. Mellette  
 Mrs. Jimmy Wiley  
 Mrs. Theo Murkerson  
 Mrs. J. L. Tedder  
 Mrs. Dell Hicks  
 Mrs. Grant  
 Mrs. Scottie Driggers  
 Miss Sevetta Wiley  
 Mrs. Lester Ray Willey  
 Miss Lizzie Alston  
 Mrs. Avis Raban  
 Mrs. Luther Norris  
 Mrs. Eva Hill Jordan  
 Mrs. Cecil Lane  
 Mrs. Dennis Johnson  
 Mrs. Fran Cobb  
 Mrs. H. B. Nasworthy  
 Mrs. Margaret Johnson  
 Mrs. Hoke Hutchins  
 Mrs. Etta Lashley  
 Mrs. Jewel Brackin  
 Mrs. Lacy Mae Ward  
 Mrs. J.O. Lane  
 Mrs. Edd Murkerson  
 Mrs. Frank Turner  
 Mrs. John Barnes  
 Mrs. Henry Green Wiley  
 Mrs. E. A. Cannon  
 Mrs. J. B. Still, Sr.  
 Mrs. Curtis Williams  
 Mrs. J. D. English  
 Mrs. Maynard Woodlief  
 Mrs. Ralph English  
 Mrs. Jasper Wiley  
 Mrs. John M. Rich  
 Mrs. J. G. Chambers  
 Lucile Lane  
 Maggie Lou Chambers  
 Mrs. Hollis Still  
 Mrs. C. W. Mosely

## CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. M. E. Cox is available for pastoral supply work. His work ended at Free Spirit Free Will Baptist Church on December 31, 1998. He may be contacted at 4804 Kinlock Drive, Durham, NC 27712, phone 919-479-9995. (Please note that this is a new address.)

Greenville First Original Free Will Baptist Church is seeking an Associate Pastor. The position will consist of involvement in youth and Christian Education. If interested, please contact the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood, phone 252-756-6600.

Reedy Branch Original Free Will Baptist Church, Winterville, NC, is seeking a pastor. Any minister who might be interested may contact: Thomas M. Bowen, 1438 W. Forlines Road, Winterville, NC 28590, or call 252-756-9839.

The Rev. James Warren is available for pulpit supply, on a part-time or full-time basis. He is in good standing with the Eastern Conference. He may be contacted at 649 Poplar Street, Kinston, NC 28584, phone 252-527-1648.

Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church has an opening for an Associate Pastor. Interested applicants should send a resume to The Board of Deacons, Stoney Creek Church, 752 Stoney Creek Church Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534. For further information call 919-735-3916.

## Note of Thanks

"I wish to thank all those who remembered me with cards, prayers, and any other ways during my birthday and Christmas."

—Kay Jones, Ayden, NC

## Note of Thanks

"Please accept my thanks and deepest appreciation for your get-well cards and especially your prayers during my recent illness. I am improving week-by-week and am now able to drive myself around on a limited basis."

—The Rev. N. Bruce Barrow, Snow Hill, NC

## Note of Appreciation

"My father, the Rev. James A. Evans, celebrated his ninety-third birthday November 10. We were so grateful for the love, care, and concern shown by so many people from our beloved denomination. As Christmas cards, visits, and phone calls begin to arrive, again our hearts were filled with love and humility. Like the Wise Men of old, it is our prayer that we may be drawn to deeper levels of intimacy with Him; not by a star, but by His presence.

"Now I wish to share a portion of Robert Louis Stevenson's 'A Christmas Prayer:'

"'Loving Father, help us to remember the Birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the Wise Men.'"

May 1999 be a year of many blessings to each of you who have blessed Daddy so much through the years."

—Mrs. Anne Evans Haddock.

## A Fruitful Pursuit

*Lisa Goodwin*

I'm on the Internet a lot. One day while working on a project I reached the apex of intolerance. I needed information from a business partner who was on the phone with me. So we both go on-line in order to make a transfer. He downloaded the documents, and we waited.

They didn't arrive.

We waited a few minutes longer. They still weren't there. At that moment I found myself incredibly impatient with the same technology that allowed me to visit any city in the world in an instant. I had fallen prey to the tyranny of the urgent once again.

Can you relate? We live in an instant society where most anything is ready for consumption in mere seconds. Yet we tap on the glass of the microwave when our popcorn isn't finished. We get impatient when Domino's doesn't deliver on time.

This push for the instantaneous leaks into our spiritual lives when we seek a fulfilling relationship with God through the push of a button or the click of a mouse. We read the right books, listen to the right tapes, even go to the right churches. Yet an active faith is evident not only in our activities, but in the fruits — the results that are produced from becoming a more loyal disciple, day by day.

In other words, fruit takes time to grow and ripen. We have to wait for it patiently.

*Excerpt from SAM Studies: Living Your Faith Inside & Out by Lisa Goodwin, David C. Cook Church Ministries.*

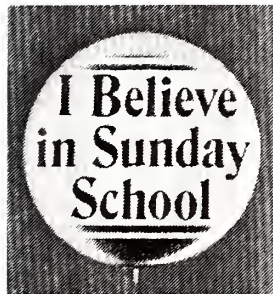


# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS

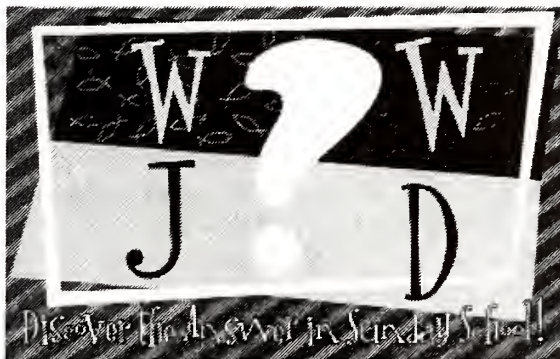


## Sunday School Resources

submitted by Darren Davenport (Store Manager Ayden Bible and Bookstore) and Sunday School Board



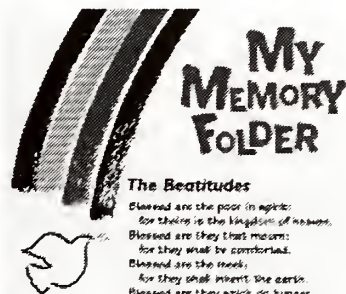
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Great for promoting Sunday school. White metal button with gold words. Measures 1<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" in diameter. Packaged 50 to a plastic bag.



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for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are they that mourn:  
for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek:  
for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are they which do hunger  
and thirst after righteousness  
for they shall be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful:  
for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart:  
for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peace-makers:  
for they shall be called the  
children of God.  
Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you,  
and persecute you, and shall say all  
manner of evil against you falsely,  
for my sake.  
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad:  
for great is your reward in heaven:  
for so persecuted they the prophets  
which were before you.

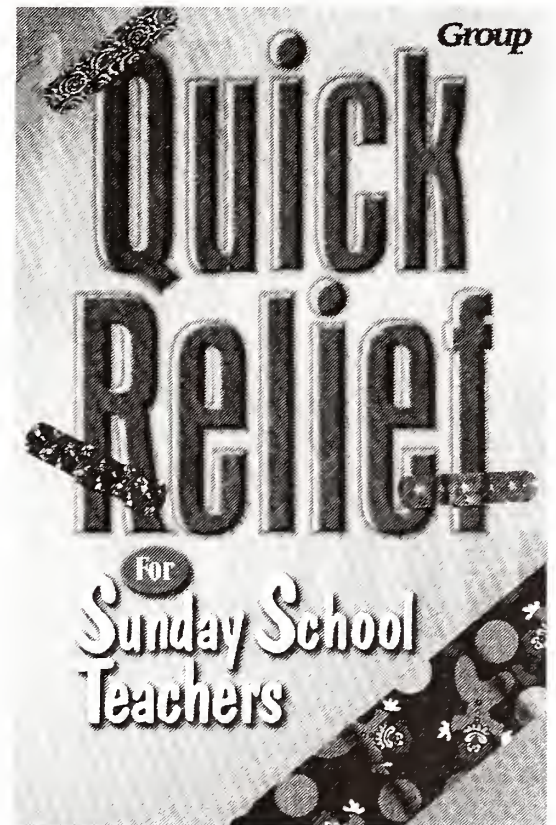
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# THE GOLDEN YEARS

Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens



"Let today embrace the past with remembrance and the future with hope,"  
(*The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran).

## January

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

When we are young, we like to do something we have never done before, go places we have never been, make new friends and have new experiences.

As we grow older, however, we become more comfortable with the familiar; visiting old friends, returning to places we visited in earlier years, clinging to habits we developed over the years, and staying with the tried and proven rather than exploring the new. Unless we are careful, our memory of the past may overshadow our vision for the future. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Senior citizens have an advantage — we can bring to the equation of life a rich depository of experience as the foundation for our vision of the future. We do not have to choose between the past and the future; we can have the best of both. In Roman mythology, Janus was the god of beginnings; hence, the name January for the first month of the year. Janus was always pictured with two heads, set back to back; one looking at the past and the other toward the future. As the guardian of gates and doors, Janus looked in both directions.

### "The Past Is Prologue" (Shakespeare)

Wherever we are in the journey of life, our present is the culmination of our past. Our family is not merely those who live in our moment of time but also our foreparents who transmitted to us their genes, culture and values. Moreover, our past experiences are a reservoir out of which we can draw wisdom and guidance for the future.

While walking on the beach on a winter day. I looked back and saw my footprints. It was evident I had not been walking a straight line but rather choosing my steps according to the waterline and the surface of sand. My mind went back to my boyhood days on the farm when the work was done by man and mules. I recalled my father setting running-row poles at each end of the garden: the rows were straight because the mule was trained to walk directly toward the pole. This garden scene has often reminded me of the importance of having clearly established goals in life; for without goals, our steps are

determined by convenience and circumstances rather than purpose.

The end of the year is a good time to look back and see what kind of footprints we have been making in our work, in our family relationships, in managing our finances, and most of all in our spiritual development. Whatever the steps reveal, they are like the words of Omar Khayyam in *The Rubaiyah*: "The moving finger writes; and having writ, moves on; nor all thy piety nor wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line, nor all thy tears wash out a word of it."

Although we cannot change the past, we can learn from it.

### Our Unfinished Business

God's plan is for the old as well as the young to have goals. When the Prophet Joel wrote of the good things God has in store for His people, he declared: "... Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions." (Joel 2:28). Dreams and visions, as used by the prophet, are one and the same — both point to the future.

I find the question, "What is most important?" my best guideline for planning. With the passing of each year, this question comes into sharper focus. Since time is limited, the point of wisdom is to give priority to what is truly important; for in the final analysis, our lives consist of the time God gives us and what we do with it.

We cannot go back in time nor in age, but we can recognize that as long as we live, life is unfinished business. It may not be as important that we reach our goals as it is that we have a plan. In His wisdom and providential care, God may lead us to higher goals than those we set, but whatever our goals, they are attained only if we earnestly pursue them. When Columbus left Spain in 1492, his goal was to open a trade route to the East, but the journey resulted in the discovery of a new world, a discovery that would not have come about if Columbus and his ships had remained in harbor.

When we become senior citizens, it is more important than ever that we establish and live by a plan to reach our goals.

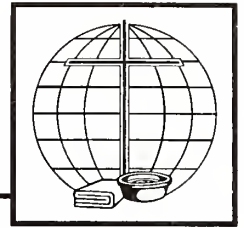
1998 (Vol. 4, No. 3) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



# Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator

Convention  
of Original  
Free Will Baptists



## 1998–1999 Theme: *The Call to Witnessing*

We would like to encourage every organization of our Convention to begin using our theme for this church year. We also encourage each local church to catch the idea and use the theme for challenging your congregation to be the servants God wants us to be.

To help you in the endeavor, here is information gleaned from the booklet published by our Board of Home Missions and Evangelism entitled "Growing in Christ," Chapter 6, Christian Duties under Topic IV: WITNESSING, (used by permission).

### Topic IV: WITNESSING

Why do Free Will Baptist believe that witnessing is a part of our Christian duty? Briefly, here are seven reasons:

*First* of all, Christ commanded us to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

*Second*, because men are lost. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Jesus is the only way whereby men can be saved.

*Third*, the love of God constrains us. When a person receives Christ, he will want to introduce Him to others.

*Fourth*, one witnesses because of the benefits to those who receive Christ. They receive God's power, direction and purpose for their lives.

*Fifth*, one should witness because it is a tremendous privilege.

*Sixth*, one should witness because witnessing encourages spiritual growth. Witnessing leads us to pray more, to study God's Word, and to depend upon the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

*Seventh*, one should witness because the Holy Spirit empowers us to witness (Acts 1:8). In fact, if the Holy Spirit possesses us we cannot help but give a powerful witness.

Do not make witnessing a difficult matter. Tell others by your deeds and by your words what Christ has done for you, and what He means to you. Tell them how they too can experience His love and forgiveness. Invite them to church with you. Make an appointment to take them for a talk with your pastor.

## 1999 Coming Events

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| February 9  | Board of Foreign Missions<br>Headquarters Conference Room<br>Ayden, NC                                      |
| February 11 | Annual Tax Seminar for Ministers,<br>Holiday Inn, Kinston, NC   |
| February 25 | Free Will Baptists Day of Prayer  |
| February 28 | World Missions Conference<br>Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC   |
| March 6     | Sunday School Institute<br>Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC   |
| March 15    | Eastern Conference Minister's Fellowship<br>St. Mary's Original Free Will Baptist<br>Church, New Bern, NC   |
| March 27    | Central District Auxiliary Convention<br>Hull Road Original Free Will Baptist<br>Church, Arba, NC           |
| March 27    | Cape Fear District Auxiliary Convention   |
| March 28    | Foreign Missions Annual Telethon  |
| April 10    | Spring Stretch<br>Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC  |
| April 25    | Home Missions and Evangelism Sunday   |
| May 3–5     | Annual Ministerial Association<br>Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain,<br>NC                                  |
| May 6       | Children's Home Board Meeting<br>Middlesex, NC  |
| May 13      | Western District Auxiliary Convention<br>Pleasant Grove Original Free Will Baptist<br>Church, Pikeville, NC |
| May 14–16   | Youth Convention<br>Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC  |

# Convention Update



1913

1998

## For 85 Years We've Been Working Toward A Strong Ministry

*Of all the things you could be part of, establishing a strong ministry for the Kingdom should be a priority. We've been at the task as a collective group of churches and conferences for eighty-five years. More than 35,000 people, through eleven ministries worldwide — The Children's Home, Mount Olive College, Foreign Missions, Cragmont Assembly, The Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Minister's Program, Church Finance Association, The Sunday School Board, Convention Headquarters, Retirement Homes, Home Missions and Evangelism — The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is making a difference. Let us help your church make your outreach ministry everything you have wanted it to be.*

---

Convention of Original Free Will Baptists  
811 North Lee Street • Post Office Box 39 • Ayden, North Carolina 28513  
Phone (252) 746-4963 Fax (252) 746-7993

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### **For Complete Information:**

*For complete information on the ministries listed above, write or call your Headquarters. To tour the Headquarters please make plans at least two months in advance. We are ready to serve you and to help your church in reaching your community for Christ.*

1998-99 Theme:

## **"The Call to Witnessing"**





Dr. Pepper Worthington

# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Bernard of Clairvaux. *On the Song of Songs* in *The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics*. Introduction by Timothy P. Weber. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

## Introduction

Bernard believed that the Song of Songs celebrated the anointing of God's grace. Many songs exist in Scriptures from Deborah to Judith to Samuel's mother. But King Solomon's song praises not a military victory but a love victory.

## The Kiss

The Holy Kiss to Bernard is the "mystery of the Incarnation of the Word" (166). However, man must first kiss Christ's feet, hand, then mouth. He writes: "So between Feet and Mouth you need this half-way house — His Hand, which first must cleanse you and then raise you up. How shall it raise you up? By giving you the grace of self-control, the fruits of penitence, which gifts will of themselves incite you to aspire to blessings greater still" (167).

Who says the words to "let Him kiss me with the kiss of His Mouth?" Why the Bride says these to the soul athirst for God. "But she who asks a kiss, she *loves*. Love is the highest of all our natural gifts, supremely so when it is rendered back to God, who is its Source" (198).

## Spiritual Perfumes

Three perfumes come to the Bride: the perfumes of contrition, devotion, and piety. What is the perfume of contrition? Bernard calls this perfume the "mortar of conscience" which is cooked "in the cauldron of a troubled heart over the fire of repentance" (173).

The perfume of devotion is grounded into the heart "by the pestle of mediation," and "brought to a great heat upon the fire of the holy longing, enriched lastly with the oil of joy" (173). Bernard reminds us: "Sorrow for sin is necessary indeed, but it should not be our sole preoccupation. Remembrance of God's goodness should be mingled with it, as honey is with wormwood; so that the bride of God's mercy may restrain us from despair" (173).

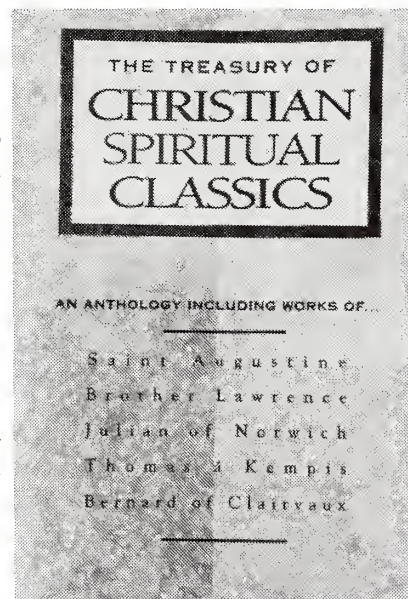
The perfume of piety is "compounded of the necessities of the poor, the cares of the oppressed, the troubles of the sorrowful, the shortcomings of sinners, and indeed of all the tribulations of all the wretched people in the world" (174).

## Bridegroom Compared To Oil

Why is the Bridegroom compared to oil? If Christ is the Bridegroom, how is Christ like oil? Bernard notes three traits of oil: (1) "As oil, by feeding flame, gives light, so does the Bridegroom's Name, when preached, enlighten souls." (2) "As oil nourishes the flesh, so does the Bridegroom's Name feed those who meditate upon it. (3) As oil, when used as medicine, eases pain, so does the Bridegroom's Name heal us when we invoke it" (177).

## Conclusion

Bernard of Clairvaux stressed the search for love. He insisted that the human soul must be filled with love before it can give love. He warned: "Let the tank take pattern from the spring; for the spring does not form a stream or spread into a lake until it is brim full" (179). We must give out of "our fullness, not our poverty" (180).

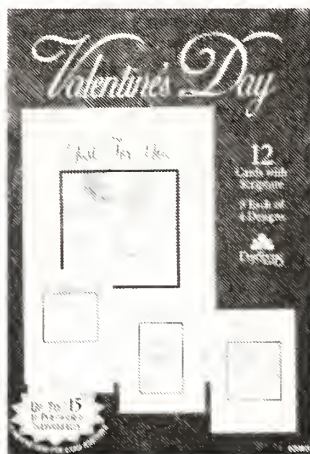


*On the Song of Songs* in *The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON

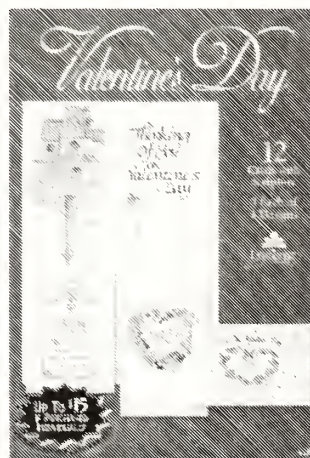
## Valentine's Day Box Cards



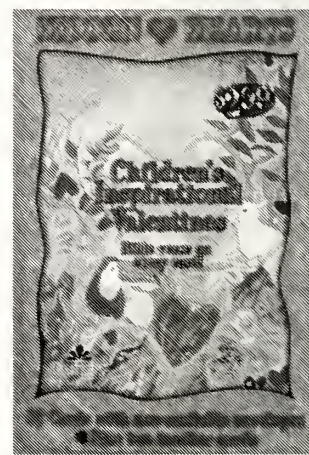
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Valentine's Day  
12 Cards — \$4.99



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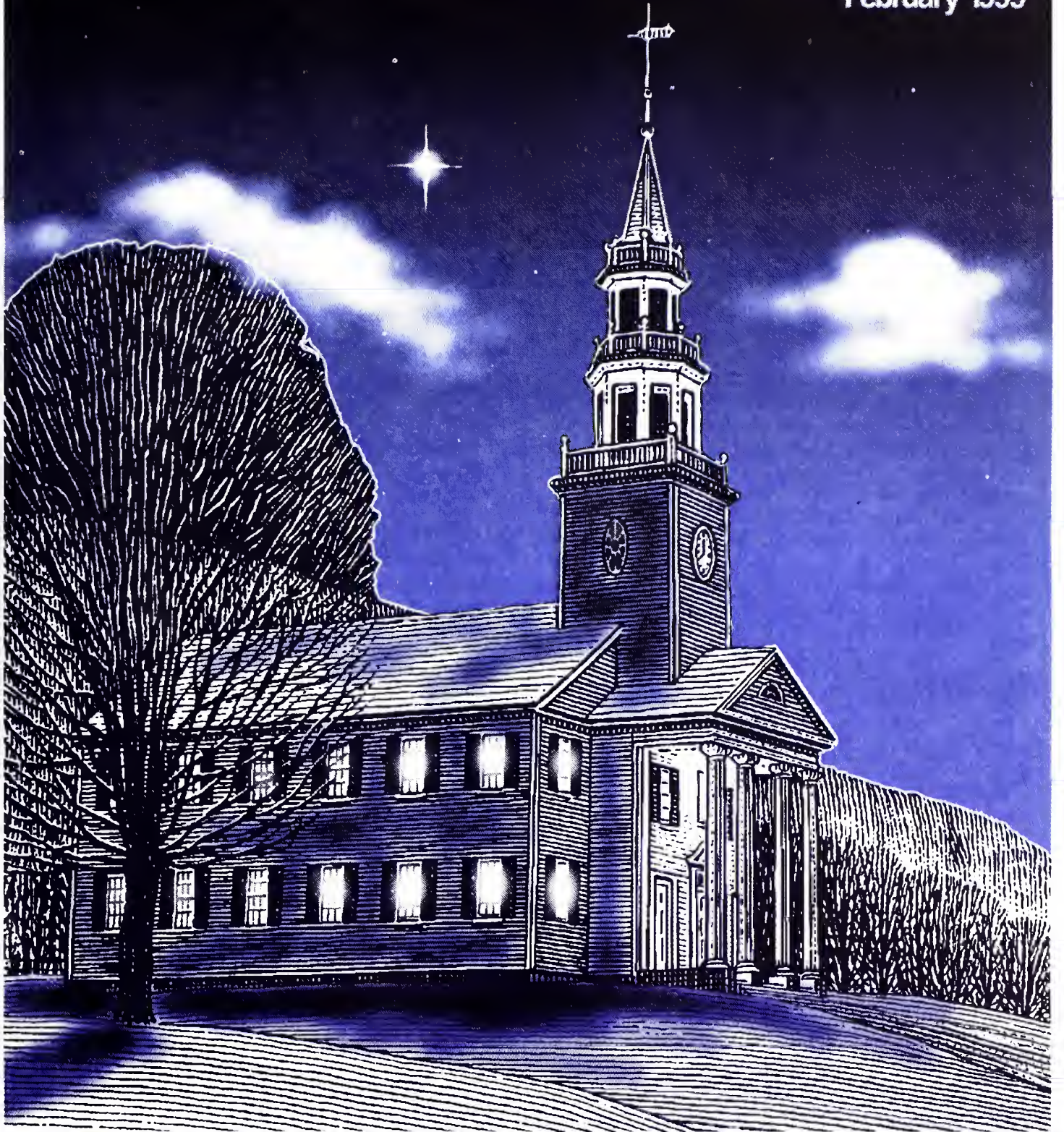
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February 1999



# The Free Will Baptist

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## Is There A Turning Point?

I keep reminding myself that a lot of "good things" are taking place in our society and world today. There is evidence of a moving of God's Spirit across the land as we near the end of this century and millennium. Led by the major spiritual leaders of our day, Christians around the world and in our own country are banding together in prayer for a revival — a renewal of the faith among God's people and a great ingathering of souls. Indeed, there is a great urgency in our prayer effort to change the downward course, the course that has taken us away from Biblical principles and truth. We wonder, however, why such a concerted effort in prayer for revival did not come earlier, or why we have waited so long, or why the upcoming new century and millennium have become the rallying moment of time? The answer may be that only now have Christians become aware of the plight of our nation, that we have just about reached the bottom and the turning point, the road to spiritual recovery, has almost eluded us.

The moral decline in America did not suddenly happen. It has been a gradual process, an eroding of our Judeo-Christian values. We have placed our own definitions on what is right or wrong with little or no regard for the teachings of God's Word. The so-called "new morality" of a few years ago made its mark on the minds of many. The decency of family-oriented TV programs such as "Father Knows Best," or "Leave it to Beaver," has been replaced with the fast talking, suggestive, and often vulgar language of a new breed of comedians and comediennees that has only weakened what's left of our nation's moral fiber. Is this what most American's really want, or have we succumbed to the propaganda of this age which claims a more enlightened and liberated generation?

When we flout God's Laws, and when we tolerate and condon the evil around us, we have brought shame and reproach to our Christian values. Too often we have remained silent, afraid we will offend someone if we express ourselves or (as preachers) if we preach the truth. We know the story of John the Baptist's imprisonment by Herod Antipas. Why? Because John had reproved him for taking Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for other sins (see Luke 3:13), Herod had him thrown in prison and ultimately to his death, at the request and demand of Herodias. Where is the outcry against the moral corruptness that surrounds us today? There was a time when we debated and voted on whether we wanted ABC stores in our towns and cities. The ABC forces gradually won. There was a time when we debated and voted on whether we would allow liquor-by-the-drink in our towns and cities or not. The liquor-by-the-drink forces gradually

won. There was a time when most businesses were closed on Sundays, then came the "blue laws" regulating commerial business on Sundays. Finally, the "blue laws" were eliminated, and most businesses now function on Sunday as any other day. There was a time when drug abuse was limited to the gangs of the larger cities. Now it's a part of our society everywhere, bringing crime, family disruptions, and a further weakening of our moral fiber. There was a time when marriage vows were sacred, never to be broken, and divorce was almost never heard of. Now divorce is commonplace. Illicit sexual affairs are common occurancies nowadays; marriage vows are no longer kept inviolate. Homosexuality and lesbianism have become part of what some consider to be normal so-called lifestyles. Open discussion concerning these practices resounds through TV and radio talk show hosts who are only interested in the ratings and the "big bucks" that come from large audiences. Tragically, there's enough people who like trash to support trash.

Can we turn the tide? Have we gone beyond the turning point? No one can deny that spiritual weakedness abounds, not only in low places, but also in high places. In recent months we have observed the eroding of an institution, namely, the Presidency of our country. This has happened when moral leadership has been so greatly needed, when true role models seem few and far between.

Have we lost our sense of decency? Does character count? Is truth and honesty simply a matter of expediency? We've come a long way since the day of our first President who reportedly stated that he could not lie. Of course, we know there has never been a perfect President; and there has never been but one perfect Person and He was crucified for our sins, that His righteousness might be imputed (put to our account) to those who believe.

When King David was confronted with his sins, he didn't say he had been indiscreet, or he had mislead anyone. He prayed: "Have mercy upon me, O God,... blot out my transgressions. Wash me... I acknowledge my transgressions... Create in me a clean heart,... (Psalm 51:1-10). So must each person acknowledge his/her sin and seek God's forgiveness. Thus, that right relationship with Him will follow. No one is exempt if that relationship is to be established. That is "the turning point," the way out of the quagmire of sin. In spite of these troublesome events, however, we know we are "...more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37).



*C. H. Ockerman*



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**NEXT MONTH**

*March is  
 Foreign  
 Missions  
 Month*

*February is  
 Sunday School and  
 Christian Education  
 Month*

## The Church and Minister in Transition

by Mike Scott

### Part 2: Guidelines Specifically for Churches

In our article last month we discussed two important issues that both the church seeking pastoral leadership and the pastor seeking to relocate need to consider: seeking the will of God in and applying the Golden Rule to the process. In this article we will address specific considerations that the church needs to be aware of as it seeks the man whom God has ordained to be its next pastor.

The first thing that the church needs to do in securing a pastor is to appoint a pulpit committee. In many situations it is customary for the Deacon Board to fill this position, but this may not always be the best approach. It is important that all areas of the church be represented in the interviewing process of securing a pastor. A representative from the Sunday school, the woman's auxiliary, the youth department, and the senior citizens needs to be considered when the pulpit committee is formed. Each of these people has areas of interest as far as what they expect in a pastor, and each should be involved in the search for pastoral leadership.

One of the first things that the pulpit committee should do is to determine what they are looking for in a pastor and what they expect out of him. It is understandable that a church will want a pastor who is an expert in all areas of the life of the church. If he can preach like Peter, and visit like Paul, and sing like David, and at the same time possess the wisdom of Solomon, the compassion of Christ, and the leadership ability of Moses, then he must be the man for the church.

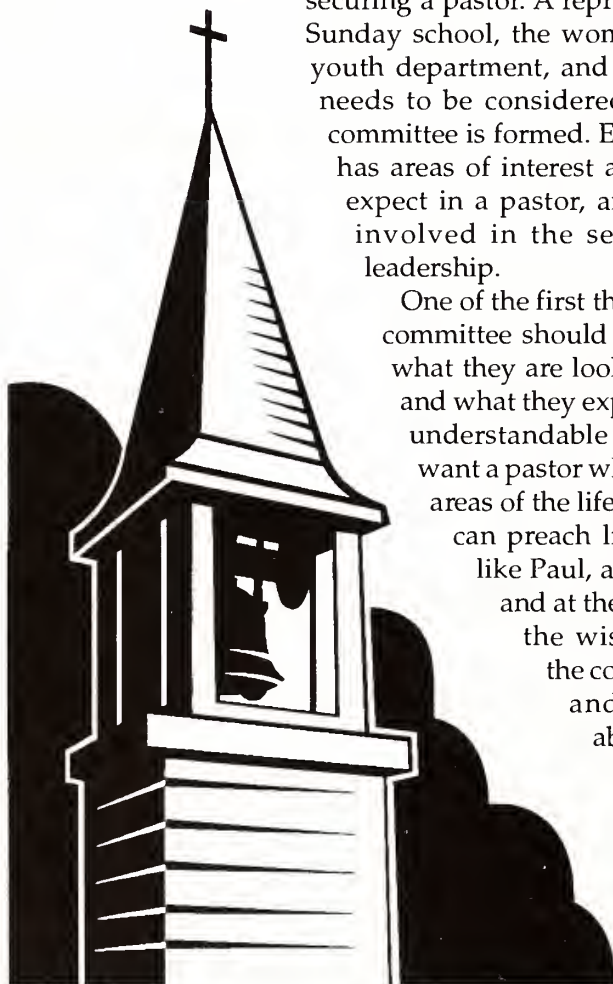
Realistically, we must determine the specific needs of our own unique

situation and then seek the individual who has the abilities to address these needs. No two churches are alike and no two preachers are alike, but there is a right preacher for each church situation and God has a marvelous way of bringing the two together.

One lesson that Original Free Will Baptist Churches *still* have not learned is that when seeking a pastor they need to consider *one candidate at a time!* Comparative shopping is done at Kmart or at the grocery store, not when it comes to seeking an individual who will be offering spiritual leadership to the body of Christ. When a church deals with three or four individuals at a time, attempting to determine which one has the best presence in the pulpit, the greatest knowledge of Scripture, the most energy to visit, and the willingness to work with the youth and the elderly, the selection process not only becomes confusing, but the entire procedure is unfair to the candidates. By dealing with one perspective minister at a time the pulpit committee can evaluate his qualifications in light of the needs and the desires of the church, and they can determine if this man is the one that God has chosen to meet those needs and to fulfill those desires. If it is believed that this individual is the right person for the church, he can then be presented for consideration, and if not he can be thanked for his time and told that the committee desires to look further.

By all means, the church needs to let the candidate know whether or not the church is interested in considering him as their pastor. There are countless numbers of instances where a man has met with a pulpit committee, and has even preached a trial sermon and been told, "We'll be in touch with you" never to hear from that church again. A lie is a lie whether it's told by a sinner or by a saint, by a crook or by the chairman of a Deacon Board. The church has a spiritual obligation to keep its word.

One trap that most, if not all, churches fall





into is the one of comparing a perspective candidate to a former pastor. If, for example, the church has just lost a beloved pastor who has been there for a number of years, and who was always there for the needs of the church whether it was weddings, funerals, baptisms, or social gatherings, it is only natural to desire that the next pastor be as faithful and dedicated. The fact of the matter is that he probably will be, but he has to be given the opportunity to prove it.

The church must learn not to look so much at the past as it does at the future. With God the best is always yet to come. No matter how good and great things have been, there is a glorious future for the people who seek God and His will for their lives. This is equally true when it comes to securing a pastor.

Every individual is unique, created by God with special gifts and abilities. There are no two preachers who are going to do things the same way, and to compare one with the other as far as expectations is concerned is wrong. Practically every pastor has heard, "Brother (insert name of former pastor) didn't do it that way." That's fine! The new man may do it better.

Another consideration for the church that is securing pastoral leadership is that the person will do more than preach, at least it is hoped that he will do more than preach. For the most part, the church hires a new pastor on the basis of one of two trial sermons and an interview, but in reality the man is in the pulpit only three or four hours a week. The rest of his time is occupied with pastoring the church and attempting to feed the flock over which God has made him the overseer. There are good preachers and good pastors, and hopefully both qualities are reflected in the life of the man that the church seeking a pastor is talking with. But the plain fact is that a good preacher doesn't necessarily make a good pastor. Just because he sounds good in the pulpit doesn't mean that he will

be good at the day-to-day duties that come up in the life of every church. On the other hand, if the preacher's delivery in the pulpit doesn't please everyone in the congregation, this doesn't mean that he will not be there at 3:00 in the morning when there's been an accident, or that he will not postpone a vacation because of an emergency in the church. The church needs to evaluate a perspective pastor on all aspects of his ministry, not simply on how well he presents himself in the pulpit.

Last of all, the church needs to adequately meet the financial obligations of its pastor. Many of our churches are still 50 years in the past when it comes to compensating their minister. There have been situations where churches have interviewed pastors and the perspective minister has been told, "Our church is small and our ability to pay is limited. As you visit and build up the congregation, then we will be able to increase your salary." Nothing of eternal significance has ever been accomplished apart from faith. The church that is asking its pastor to exercise all of the faith, while it is simply waiting and watching, is not only showing a lack of trust in God, but is also disobeying His Word which is the mandate for the true church of God. The instructions for the operation of the church begin and end in the Bible. We have no other authority.

The pastoral ministry is not a job, it is a profession. The minister is not "hired" by the church; he is called there by God. A good number of our ministers are well educated and continue to further their education through classes and seminars. The pastor's family has the same needs for clothing, shelter, transportation, and recreation as any other family in the church. For the most part, we expect our ministers to be available 24 hours a day, and at a moments notice. Many times a minister has had his sleep interrupted by a phone call from a frantic spouse at the hospital whose mate has just

suffered a stroke or heart attack. With little or no complaint, he will arise and make his way through the dark and empty streets because of his great love for his congregation.

The point is simple, the workman is worthy of his hire. The church should do the best that it possible can in compensating its pastor. This compensation should include, but not be limited to, a livable wage, housing allowance (if no parsonage is provided), insurance, retirement, provisions for furthering his education (seminars, schools of evangelism, etc.), travel allowance, and paid vacation. A good pastor is more than just an asset to the church, in many cases he is the making of the church (by God's grace and leadership), and he should be fairly and reasonably compensated for his services.

In the third and final article in this series we will look at those things that the pastor needs to specifically consider as he seeks to secure a place of ministry. The minister is a God called man who is answerable to Him for his failure to be obedient. We will examine those guidelines that we feel that minister needs to be aware of as he waits upon the Lord to open a door of service.



# Founders Day Message

## Mount Olive College

November 24, 1998

by the Rev. Leon Grubbs, President,  
Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Text: Joshua 1:1-9

I want to address my opening comments to the students in the congregation today. It is my hope that I might be able to reach someone who is less interested in their studies than in partying, sports, the opposite sex, or some other extracurricular activities.

Thirty years ago, I never dreamed I would be standing here as the president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists to bring this address to my alma mater. I, undoubtedly, had professors who never dreamed it either.

I am reminded of a humorous story I heard some time ago. Eight-year-old Johnny was prone to extreme exaggerations. (That's a nice way of saying he lied big time.) One Sunday morning while his Sunday school teacher was finishing her pre-class routine, she overheard Johnny telling about how he and his dad had gone fishing the day before.

"We caught sixty catfish and not one of them weighed less than fifty pounds," said Johnny.

His teacher decided to break Johnny from his fabricating ways with a tale of her own. "Class, I have a story to tell you. This morning I decided to walk to Sunday school. As I was passing the old vacant lot over on Baker Street, a great big bear bolted out of the bushes toward me. I was so terrified I couldn't move. I just froze there as the bear came charging straight for me. Suddenly, this little dog came running out of nowhere. He nipped the bear on the heel and the bear went tumbling head over heels. The little dog rushed in and, grabbing the bear by the throat, he shook him until the bear died."

"Johnny, do you believe that story?"

Without hesitation Johnny said, "O, yes ma'am. That was my dog."

Sometimes teachers do the best they can, but don't succeed in getting the point across. I must admit that I was not the best student I could and should have been while here at Mount Olive College. Although I graduated on time in 1968, I did not graduate with honors. On the contrary, it was an honor to graduate.

I am, however, happy to add that when I returned to college six years later, I earned *Summa cum Laude* grades. If I could, I would go back and redo those first two years of college. That, of course, is not possible. I challenge you students to do the best you can while you have the opportunity. You will never be able to go back in time and do it over.

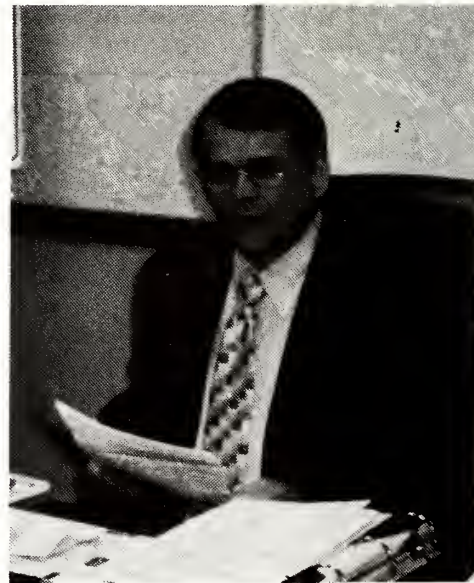
For the next few moments, it is my intent to share a personal testimony of faith. A faith that was born in my home as a child, was nurtured by the Original Free Will Baptist Church, and continued to be strengthened on this very campus. This testimony will be shared in the context of the Grubbs family's association with Mount Olive College and will end with comments based on Joshua 1:1-9.

*After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, The LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them — to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates — all the Hittite country — to the Great Sea on the west. No*

*one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.*

*"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:1-9, NIV).*

I continue my comments by making three statements. First, I am thankful and proud to be a graduate of Mount Olive College...and to continue to be associated with the college and all that it represents academically, historically, and spiritually. Second, I am thankful and proud to be an Original Free Will Baptist...to be an integral part of this body of believers and all that the name *Original Free Will Baptist* means. Third, and most important of all, I am thankful and proud to be a Christian.



Rev. Leon Grubbs



It is a privilege to live for Christ and build my life on the Christian principles of faith, decency and morality in a society which seems to be increasingly hostile toward those who hold such values in high esteem. It is this third statement that girds up the first two and gives them meaning.

I credit my parents, Herman and Lillian Grubbs, with instilling a love for God within my five brothers, two sisters, and me. They taught us that faith in Jesus Christ is essential to salvation. They demonstrated that moral and spiritual integrity is of utmost importance. They instilled in us a desire to learn and grow intellectually, and to become all that we can become spiritually. They demonstrated to us what it means to live lives dedicated to the Christ Who died that we might have life and Who lives that we might have assurance for life eternal.

I was born in Perry, Florida, a small town fifty miles south of Tallahassee and about twenty minutes from the Gulf of Mexico. I was born the third of eight children. My father, in addition to being a rural mail carrier, was an ordained Free Will Baptist minister. He pastored two churches in Florida which I remember. Mount Carmel, a rural church four miles north of Perry, was one of them. That is the church where I accepted Christ as my Saviour. It was there I received additional instruction and training through the Sunday school, League, Bible school, youth programs and worship services which helped lay the foundation of faith and Christian integrity upon which my life continues to be built. It is a foundation which was begun in the home by my parents.

In 1958 my father and mother came home from a meeting of the Florida Association of Free Will Baptists held in Miami, Florida, and announced that they were considering a move to Mount Olive, North Carolina. At the meeting they had met a young man by the name of Burkette Raper who had talked of a college in Mount Olive that had been founded by the North Carolina Convention of Free Will

Baptists. It was a college that had great potential for growth. It was a college that could offer a Christian education to men and women. It was a college that exhibited the same principals of Godly faith and moral decency which my parents were living and striving to instill within their children.

My parents were individuals of great faith. They believed that if it was God's will for the family to move to Mount Olive, He would remove all the obstacles standing in the way of such a move. To make a long story short, the Lord led my parents in working out the details necessary to making such a move possible. That included the sale of the family home and a small farm. It also included the exchange of mail routes with a carrier in the Goldsboro area. The move was made in August of 1959.

The people who met us on the Saturday of our arrival at our new home at the corner of Southerland and Station streets in Mount Olive were Original Free Will Baptists. Most of them were faculty, staff, and students of Mount Olive College. They not only greeted and welcomed us, they helped with the great task of unloading trucks and trailers of furniture, appliances, and the many boxes packed with clothes and household items.

The following morning, our family walked the four blocks from our new home to the old downtown campus. There we gathered with the "college family" for worship. My first experience with Mount Olive College was a very positive Christian encounter.

As you can see, the Grubbs family has ties with Mount Olive College which go back almost forty years. My father, my mother, and all eight of us children are alumni of Mount Olive College. In addition to being a graduate, my mother is a twenty-year employee of the college.

Mount Olive College was founded by the North Carolina Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. It was chartered in 1951. The first class of students — all six of them — entered in the fall of 1952. The first classes

were held in the Cragmont building near Black Mountain. It was called Mount Allen Junior College for the mountain which overlooks Cragmont Assembly. The Rev. Lloyd Vernon, the first president, was one of two faculty members.

The Convention took a bold step of faith in the fall of 1953. With \$6.17 in the college fund, a vote was made to purchase, at a cost of \$25,000, a city block of property in Mount Olive on which an abandoned school building stood. With such a small amount of money on hand, no plan in place to raise \$25,000, and the old school building in need of repairs and renovations, it was obvious that an individual of deep faith and commitment to the vision of the college for Original Free Will Baptists was needed. In 1954 that individual of faith and vision was called. W. Burkette Raper became president of Mount Olive Junior College.

From the outset, the course was set for Mount Olive College to be a "Christian College for Men and Women." In his report to the Convention in 1954, President Raper stated, "My prayer is that we shall build in this state a college that is both Christian and sound in scholarship. Out of our small beginnings is a vision of an educational institution that will be an honor to our denomination and credit to the cause of education in general. I solicit your prayers, cooperation, and support."

The vision of a college that offers a Christian environment for education is stated in the charter. The purpose of Mount Olive College is

- *To establish, maintain and operate a four-year college for the Christian education of men and women.*
- *To maintain an emphasis upon scholarship and Christian living in an academic community made up of persons dedicated to the practice and advancement of Christian ideals in all areas of life.*

Down through the years since those humble beginnings, dozens of published statements from the college have reinforced the Christian ideal for Mount Olive College. One such example comes from the back page of

a bulletin cover promoting the college. It is "An Open Letter" from President Raper, a letter that was initially distributed through the Admissions Office. It states in part: *Mount Olive College was founded to provide Free Will Baptist young people and adults with a kind and quality of education not available anywhere else in the world. The distinctiveness of Mount Olive College is not in one, but in the combination of the following characteristics:*

1. *Our commitment to academic excellence...*

2. *Our commitment to student development...*

3. *Our commitment to Christian faith and values...*

4. *Our commitment to educational opportunity..."*

Under characteristic number two, *Our commitment to student development*, is this statement: *You are more than a mind. You are a person — a human being of infinite value. An educational environment where people care for you, are interested in you, and love you will help you achieve your highest ideas.*

And under characteristic number three, *Our commitment to Christian faith and values*, is this statement: *No person is big enough to live without God. Mount Olive College is sponsored by the Free Will Baptist Church for the purpose of helping students equip themselves to fulfill God's purpose for their lives.*

It is the privilege and responsibility of the Board of Trustees, President, faculty and staff of Mount Olive College; and that of the Original Free Will Baptist Church to continue to promote and maintain the ideals of Christian faith and integrity upon which Mount Olive is built.

The text which we read from Joshua makes four statements for our consideration in this regard:

1. God promised, "I will be with you." When God calls us to a vision and task He will always be with us to guide and strengthen us to see the vision fulfilled and the task accomplished. There is no doubt God has had His hand on Mount Olive College since its founding.

2. God encouraged Joshua to "be strong and courageous." Our courage

and strength lie in the knowledge that God is always faithful. When we place our trust in a faithful God, He will continue to bless in our endeavors to provide a "Christian College for Men and Women."

3. God demands complete obedience. If the vision God sets before us is to be fulfilled, we must always be obedient to His Word for us. God demands the best in academic and Christian ideals of Mount Olive College.

4. God instructs Joshua to resist compromise. Do not turn "to the right nor to the left." We cannot afford to compromise our vision of a college which offers the highest in academics and in Christian values. If we do compromise, we cease to be the people of intergrity God has called us to be.

There is one last statement I want to read from a college publication. It comes from *A Covenant to Serve, The Partnership between Mount Olive College and the Free Will Baptist Church*. It

states, "*The College needs the Church to help it keep a clear focus on its mission as an institution of Christian higher education. On the other hand, the Free Will Baptist Church needs Mount Olive College. The mission and leadership of the Church are inseparable from education.*"

Could the Original Free Will Baptist Church exist without Mount Olive College? Could the college go on without the church? Perhaps each could survive without the other, but neither would be as strong as we are when we work together as a team. We have a joint ministry to fulfill in providing the quality of Christian education which people deserve and which God demands.

It is my prayer that God will continue to bless Mount Olive College and the Original Free Will Baptist Church. He will continue to be with us and bless us as long as we trust Him, obey Him, and refuse to compromise the supreme ideals of the vision and faith which have brought us this far.

## TITANIC MAN

by Jerry J. Sealey

He sails his ship from day to day  
Thru troubled waters on his way;  
He's soul captain of his fate,  
And he has a judgment date.

He worries not about his course,  
For he feels a sense of safe choice;  
He ventures forth with little fear,  
A prideful sign of shallows near.

Perchance a greater navigator found  
To help his steer from solid ground,  
One who would chart a new course  
To lead him into calm water's voice.

A real shipmaster in time of storm  
He can guide you, even tired and worn.  
So reach out and grab His helping hand  
He is our Creator and our best Friend.



# Camp Vandemere Our Family Enrichment Center

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

As we look back over 1998, we are happy to say that we had a very good year. Souls were saved, others rededicated their hearts, and the name of the Lord was edified.

The camp was able to accomplish many projects in upkeep and maintenance last year. First of all we accomplished the task of building twenty-nine bunk beds and purchasing twin-size mattresses to go on them. Next, we installed a new heating and air-conditioner for the boy's dorm, which also feeds the lobby of the dorm. While this was being done, it was necessary to update the electric service to the dorm.

When we began these projects and looked at the cost for each one, we wondered where we would find the necessary funds to complete them. The board prayed and asked the Lord to guide us and we felt it was His will for us to go forward with them. Once they were begun, the Lord provided the funds that were needed to finish each one. In Matthew 7:7 it says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock it shall be opened unto you" This is exactly what happened. We thank the Lord for answered prayer and we also thank you for your generous support to Camp Vandemere.

The board is looking forward to the new year. It brings many new challenges to the camp. One of the first challenges is to secure a new manager who will live on the campus and be there year around. As I write to you, we have several resumes to consider and are still accepting resumes. If you plan to apply, please do so quickly. The camp is planning to install a bulk head along part of our shore line. This becomes necessary due to the erosion we have had from the storms. Once this is done, we plan

to do more repairs to our piers. One of the storms lifted up the big platform at the end of the pier and twisted it just a little. Plans are to repair this as well as make it more secure. Then we plan to tear down the little pier that is off from the existing bulk head and replace it with another one that will better serve those who would like to dock their boats while at the camp. There are other projects that we would like to do and we will keep you updated as we begin them.

Our General Manager, the Rev. Ralph Sumner, has already worked out a new camping schedule which will be published in the near future. Start making plans now to send your youth to Camp Vandemere this year. Also, make your plans now to come down and spend some time with us at the camp. We have the Family Lodge which has two rooms that will sleep six each at a cost of only \$25.00 a night. We are planning to have our all day gospel sing again this year so

keep watching for more information on this in *The Free Will Baptist* paper. Also, keep watching for the date of our annual clean-up day. We will need the help of men, women, boys, and girls. There will be a job for everyone. Perhaps a group would like to come before this day and take a particular area or building as a project. It would be very much appreciated. There is more to do than can be done by just one or two.

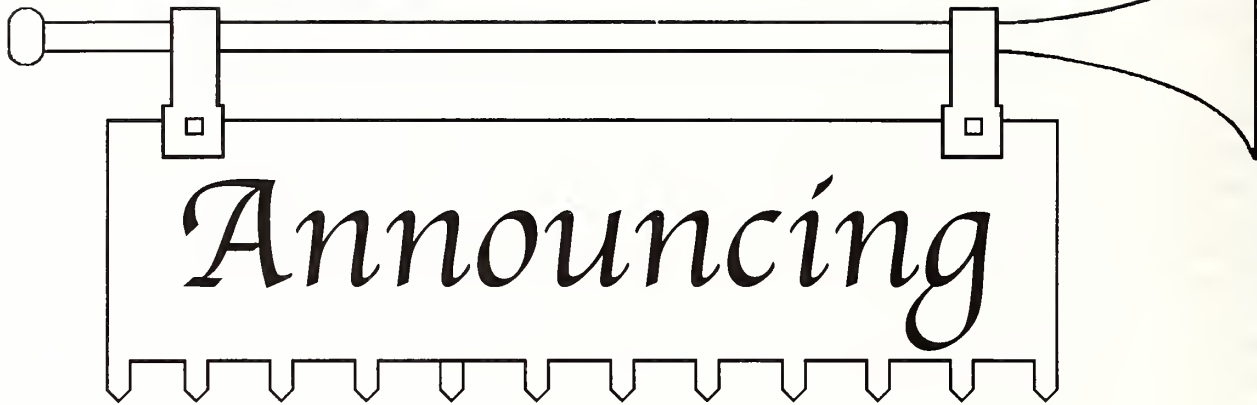
Until we are able to secure a new manager, please contact the Rev. Owen Arthur for all reservations for the camp, phone 252-633-1185, address, 660 Half Moon Road, New Bern, NC 28560. You may send your contributions to our Treasurer: Mrs. Judith Kennedy, 933 North N.C. 41, Pink Hill, NC 28572.

The board would like to thank all the friends of Camp Vandemere for your prayers, kindness, and financial support. Please continue to pray for us as we begin a new year.

## Layman's League

### Dates to Remember

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| February 4 | Executive Committee and Promotional Board<br>VFW Building, Snow Hill<br>7:00 PM  |
| March 1    | Central Conference Layman's League<br>King's Cross Roads Original Free Will Baptist Church<br>Meal 7:00 PM, Business 7:45 PM   |
| June 7     | Central Conference Layman's League<br>Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church<br>(Host churches: Ormondsville, Little Creek, St. Delight)<br>Meal 7:00 PM, Business 7:45 PM |
| June 4-5   | Spiritual Life Retreat<br>Camp Vandemere<br>Vandemere, NC  |



**Free Will Baptist Sunday School Day  
February 28, 1999**

**Promote Your  
Sunday School!**

**Bring Someone  
With You.**



Support Your Sunday School Ministry.

Send a contribution to:  
Original Free Will Baptist  
Sunday School Board  
P.O. Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513-0039





# **SPECIAL NOTICE**

## **Sunday School Institute**

Mount Olive College  
Saturday, March 6, 1999

**Theme: The Call to Witness**

**“Teaching and Learning in the Sunday School”**

Registration and Opening Assembly for Adults  
Murphy Center 8:45 - 9:30 a.m.

**Adult Workshops**  
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Youth Program**  
8:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Pre-School - High School  
Director  
Mrs. Cathy Crumpler

Registration Fee — \$ 50.00 per church  
(includes all food and materials)

Coffee, juice, danish available on arrival  
Brunch 11:40 - 12:30

**Sunday School Institute  
March 6, 1999  
Teaching and Learning In The Sunday School**

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

8:45 AM	—	9:15 AM	Mix and Mingle and View Displays
9:15 AM	—	9:30 AM	Opening Assembly and Registration
9:40 AM	—	10:35 AM	Workshop Session 1
10:45 AM	—	11:40 AM	Workshop Session 2
11:45 AM	—	12:45 PM	Brunch and View Displays
12:45 PM	—	1:30 PM	Special Activities and Closing Assembly

**WORKSHOPS**

- Growing in Christ**                      This workshop focuses on the critical factors necessary for a person or organization to grow in the understanding of the mission of Christ. These factors are fundamental in witnessing to the world about our Lord and the furtherance of His kingdom here on earth.
- Harvest Covenant**                      This workshop focuses on strategies that can be used for churches to begin programs to share the good news of our Lord in their communities. It will cover such areas as how to conduct surveys, visitation campaigns and structuring the church's program to accept visitors who could become new members. This workshop is vital to the church that seems to be at a standstill in growth and is looking for new ways to meet the needs of the people.
- Ministering to Teens**                      This workshop will focus on ideas for meeting the needs of the teenagers ages 14 and up in our churches through Sunday school and youth organizations.
- Ministering to Young People**                      This workshop will focus on the characteristics, attitudes and methods of meeting the needs of young people from the ages of 10-13 as they participate in our Sunday school and youth organizations.
- Ministering to Early Childhood**                      This workshop will focus on ideas / tips for working with the younger children ages 3-9 in our Sunday school and other organizations.
- Ministering to Senior Citizens**                      This workshop will focus on understanding how our churches can better meet the needs of the fastest growing segment of our population, *the silent generation*. It will provide tips on strategies to help them feel useful in the mission of the church within the local church and in the community.
- Literature in the Sunday School**                      This workshop will provide literature that can be used to supplement the Sunday school lessons for children ages 3-10. A bibliography will be provided.
- Seven Laws of Teaching**                      This workshop will focus on the seven laws of effective teaching which are relevant to any age level.
- Activities for the Young People**                      Cathy Crumpler will organize and facilitate activities in College Hall.



# *Cragmont During Winter*

It is the first week of January and old man winter makes his presence known with an ice storm. Ice storms worry me as they can leave you without the power to run every day items such as computers, refrigerators, freezers, heaters, etc. Having baseboard heat in the Main Building, the threat of frozen pipes is a major concern if the current were to be off for a long period.

This ice storm, however, did not affect the power this time. This gave us the chance to sit back and enjoy a cozy fire in the fireplace and the company of two church groups who came for a ski trip. Rains Crossroads and St. Mary's Grove arrived on December 31, 1998. After settling in, the plans were reviewed for the next day's activities of skiing and fun in the snow. Instructions were given as to filling out rental forms and how a ski boot should feel once it is on your foot. The group planned to day ski making it necessary to leave Cragmont for the slopes at 6:45 AM. The early rise did not dampen the spirit to bring in the new year.

After enjoying skiing on Friday, it was fun to sit around the fireplace and listen to the "battle scar stories" of the day's activities. On Saturday the group from Rains Crossroads left for home hoping the beat the ice storm that was on the way. St. Mary's Grove planned to stay until Sunday. On Saturday there was no need to get up early. Breakfast was a little late and the rest of the day was spent at the mall and trying to return back to

Cragmont safely as the ice storm had already begun.

On Sunday following breakfast and a worship service, the group from St. Mary's Grove packed up to head for home. The storm was over and not severe enough to prevent traveling. The sun was shining brightly causing the ice in the trees to glitter and glisten in the sunlight. Up close the tiny tree limbs looked like clear pencils with the actual limb posing as the lead.

Cragmont can be used during the winter as many church groups have discovered. Even when a storm is putting down ice and snow, the fellowship and the warm glow of a fire will make for a good time with good people.



Ice glittering in the sun.



St. Mary's Grove packing up to leave.



Cragmont in the Christmas Spirit



**Registration Form*****Cragmont Woman's Conference*****Morning Star — April 9–11, 1999**

Speaker: Deborah King

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_.

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail the registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:  
 Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530  
 A balance of \$30 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

**Registration Form*****Cragmont Women's Conference*****June 7–12 and August 2–7**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Which Conference Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_.

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here \_\_\_\_\_.

Mail the registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:  
 Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530  
 A balance of \$120 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip will be planned with an approximate cost of \$65. There will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville (\$5.00 each). Please make your plans now to join us for one or both of these conferences.

Remember: The June Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as our ladies. A limited number of private accommodations for couples are available on a first registered, first served basis.

**1999 Summer Camp Schedule****MORNING STAR***April 9–11, 1999*

Teresa Ball — (252) 524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Grifton, NC 28530

**MINISTER'S CONFERENCE***May 3–6, 1999*

Doug Skinner — (919) 596-2456

817 Lynn Road, Durham, NC 27703

**JUNE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY  
CONFERENCE***June 7–12, 1999*

Teresa Ball — (252) 524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Grifton, NC 28530

**CRAGMONT YOUTH CONFERENCE***June 14–19, 1999*

Bryant Hines — (252) 633-2683

PO Box 266, Cove City, NC 28523

**CHRISTIAN CADET CONFERENCE***June 21–26, 1999*

Gary Bailey — (919) 735-3916

112 Crosswinds Dr., Goldsboro, NC 27530

**YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (YFA)***June 28–July 3, 1999*

Janie Sowers — (252) 321-7542

PO Box 824, Middlesex, NC 27557

**YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (AFC)***July 5–10, 1999*

Frankie Baggett — (252) 746-7850

5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Ayden, NC 28513

**GENERAL YOUTH II CONFERENCE***July 12–17, 1999*

Chris Singleton — (910) 298-3520

PO Box 162, Beulaville, NC 28518

**GENERAL YOUTH I CONFERENCE***June 19–24, 1999*

Bryant Hines — (252) 633-2683

PO Box 266, Cove City, NC 28523

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S BIBLE CONFERENCE***July 26–31, 1999*

James Gurganus — (252) 223-5251

1317 Nine Foot Rd., Newport, NC 28570

**AUGUST WOMEN'S AUXILIARY  
CONFERENCE***August 2–7, 1999*

Teresa Ball — (252) 524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Grifton, NC 28530



## Children's Home Ministry Plans Expansion

The Free Will Baptist Children's Home plans to open its first emergency shelter for boys. Due to location, it was decided to turn the emergency shelter for girls in Wilson into an emergency shelter for boys. The program will be the same except it will serve only males.

The current emergency program for girls, Genesis House, will be moved to the recently purchased property near Bailey, NC. The property near Bailey is better suited to serve females and the staff and children are excited about the move. Our goal is to move the girls program as soon as our Licensing Consultant has approved the new property. The boys program is expected to open by March 1, 1999. We are excited about the new opportunity to reach out to more children. Please continue to pray for our ministry as we strive to continue our mission to children.



*Boys Group Home*

## Can You Help?

There are many opportunities for you to help our ministry with this new project and transition. Financial support is needed to fund the following items for the new emergency shelter. If you would like to contribute please contact us immediately.

- Furniture: beds, dressers, living room, dining room etc. (estimated cost \$5,000)
- Office furniture and equipment: fax machine, copier (estimated cost \$3,000)
- Appliances: Refrigerator, Upright Freezer, Washer, Dryer
- Mini Van
- Vacuum
- 25-inch TV
- VCR
- Microwave
- Sheets/Comforters
- Household Items: Towels, Pillows, Twin Mattress Covers (vinyl or plastic), Set of Pots and Pans, Baking Pans, Silverware set (12 Serving), Cooking Utensils, Juice Glasses, Dinner Glasses
- Paper Products
- Personal Care Items

## Cragmont NEWS

### Cragmont Youth Conference

June 14-19, 1999

Bryant Hines and Craig Simmons, Co-Directors

In response to the increasing need for more young people to have the opportunity to enjoy one of the greatest experiences of a lifetime — Cragmont is pleased to announce the establishment of a new week of summer camp — Cragmont Youth Conference.

Bryant Hines and Craig Simmons — from the very successful July General Youth Conference — will be directing this new camping experience. (Don't worry GYC faithful — they'll still be working with General Youth in July.)

Designed for kids who have completed the third grade through high school, this new week of camp will be filled with music, study, worship and fun.

For more information about Cragmont's newest camping opportunity — watch for future articles in the *Free Will Baptist* — or call Bryant Hines at 252-633-2683 or Craig Simmons at 252-633-9838.

**Experience a week of camp...you'll never be the same...**

## *Taxes and the Minister*

*by Don Fader*

Jesus proclaimed to his detractors as well as his followers "To render unto Ceasar that which is Ceasar's and to render unto God that which is God's." April 15 really brings this verse home to each of us and your minister is no different.

For years some people assumed that the clergy was tax-exempt when in reality many churches paid their pastor "in kind" rather than in currency, and his overall income was not sufficient to move the seismograph at the IRS. With increased income, two career families and the necessity of bi-vocational ministries, this is beginning to change.

Ministers now find themselves complaining about the tax bite that the average church member has faced for years. This situation is compounded by the fact that the minister is subject to a substantially different set of rules and regulations than most other individuals. In addition to this, some well-known national franchise tax services are not well informed enough to provide accurate completion of a minister's return.

When tax preparers complete your return they do not assume the responsibility for the accuracy of the information. You as the taxpayer may have failed to provide data, or you may have misstated information. The ultimate responsibility falls to you the taxpayer and the IRS will assess you for any additional taxes, penalties and interest due. While a reputable preparer will pay the penalties for their mistakes no one wants to go through the time required and the scrutiny of an IRS audit.

For the most part, returns today are handled by computers and an agent seldom reviews the form. Most audits are triggered by improperly completed returns such as a minister filing a Schedule C for income received

as a pastor. This raises the likelihood of a review by an agent since the IRS Computer will raise a flag when problems are encountered.

The minister is a unique tax payer. The IRS considers him to be a common-law employee for income tax purposes, but he is required to file as a self-employed individual for the Medicare and social security (FICA). This means that while most employees are taxed at 7.65% for FICA, the minister has to pay 15.30%. This is before any state or federal tax. If a minister lives in a parsonage, then FICA must be paid on the rental value of that home. What is the rental value and who determined it? What qualifies for tax free allowances? What can the church do to help their minister lessen the tax bite?

Each year the Minister's Program sponsors a Tax Seminar for Ministers to help pull back the shroud that surrounds the specific portions of the tax code that applies to the minister. Whether you have a tax preparer, accountant, or if you do your own taxes the seminar will benefit you. The more you know the better able you are to assist your tax professional.

The presenters once again will be Curtis Smith and Dana Letchworth, CPAs. Several people have asked why we use the same presenter each year. Early into these seminars we used different people each year, including a representative from the IRS. What we discovered was conflicting and confusing information was dis-

pensed. For this reason we feel that consistency and accuracy are far more important than diversity.

It is dangerous to accept second-hand information and advice from your peers in this area. Curtis has been doing this for us for years and he is one of the few CPAs that has taken the time to learn about the unique tax considerations of the clergy and he is willing to stand behind what he says. But also he has gotten older and is prone to repeating himself and changing topics without advising the audience so he now has an associate that accompanies him to help keep him on task.

This year the seminar will be held on Thursday, February 11, 1999, at the Best Western (formerly the Holiday Inn) in Kinston at the intersection of Hwy 70 Bypass and US 258 South. This is a change from last year, so please note the new location.

Refreshments will begin at 9:00 AM with coffee and softdrinks and the seminar will begin at 9:30 AM. Lunch is included in the registration fee which remains at \$5.00. Ministers 65 and up need to register but will attend for free. Who should attend? Spouses, treasurers, finance committee members and other interested parties.

Seating is limited, so as soon as you receive your letter send your registration back. If you have not received a registration please call Donald Fader at 252-523-5800. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Don't Forget**

**February 11, 1999 • 9:00 AM**

**Best Western (formerly the Holiday Inn)**

**Kinston, North Carolina**



# Into All the World

by Mike Scott, Chairman  
OFWB Internation (Board of Foreign Mission)

*And he (Jesus) said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:15-16).*

Mission work should be the heartbeat of the church! Jesus does not make it an option that we can either do or not do as the notion strikes us, but He commands and commissions us to make the gospel known to every person upon the face of this earth. When He was alive, He made it His business to reveal God's plan of salvation to as many people as He possibly could. When Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be His disciples, He told them, "...Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men" (Luke 5:11). He told Nicodemus, "...Ye must be born again" (John 3:7); He told the rich young ruler, "...Sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor...and come, take up thy cross, and follow me" (Mark 10:21); He told the women caught in the act of adultery, "...Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11); and He told Zeccheaus, who had climbed the sycomore tree in order to better see Jesus, "...Make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house" (Luke 19:5).

In the above Scripture, Christ has risen from the dead and is about to ascend into Heaven. Before He does so, He leaves with His disciples His final instruction which we know as the Great Commission: "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." He promised them that Holy Ghost power would come upon them and with that power they would be able to fulfill this commission by making Him known unto the ends of the earth. We are all familiar with the Great Commission given in Verse 15, but are we fully aware of the implication of the commission given in Verse 16 "...He that believeth not shall be damned." The teaching of Scripture is that those who die without the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ will spend eternity in hell, separated from God and suffering everlasting punishment.

There are two great misconceptions among Christians today. The first of these is that people who have never heard the gospel will ultimately be saved because a loving God

won't send anyone to hell who has never had the opportunity to believe in Christ. The other misconception is that it doesn't matter what god a person believes in as long as that person is sincere in what he/she believes. Both of these concepts are wrong, and because they are, we must be zealous in carrying the gospel to a world that has been blinded and deceived by Satan. In the fourth Chapter of Acts, the Apostle Peter is being questioned by the religious leaders of his day (the elders and the scribes). He tells them, that "Neither is their salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Jesus and Jesus alone is Saviour and no one can be saved apart from a personal encounter with Him. Every year people are dying by the millions and are being cast into a devil's hell because they left this world without the saving knowledge of God's Son.

I have had the privilege of serving the Board of Foreign Missions for over four years. During this time I have been closely involved with the finances of the Board (the money that has been received as well as the way in which it has been used), with Brother Harold Jones (who is a God called and dedicated man with a great burden for the lost of the world) and with our five mission points (I have visited all of them except Bulgaria). Without reservation, I believe that our Foreign Mission program deserves the prayerful and financial support of every Original Free Will Baptist. It is through the generosity of God's people that churches and parsonages are built, that national (foreign) pastors are trained and educated, that the gospel is carried to the most remote corners of the globe and that the wonderful gift of salvation is brought to those who will hear and believe the truth of God. There is an urgent need to make Christ known to the world because the time is nearing when He shall come again and time shall be no more.

Since I have served on the Board of Foreign Missions I have seen our reserves (the money that is given over and above our budgeted needs) soar by the grace of God, but lately I have watched those reserves dwindle because of increased and unexpected

# February

Prayer C

Things T

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
31	1	2	3
7	8 Foreign Mission Board Meeting	9	10
14  Valentine's Day	15  President's Day	16  FWB Press Board Meeting	17
21	22  Washington's Birthday	23	24
28  World Mission Conference 5:00 - 8:00 PM	1	2	3

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS



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ember \_\_\_\_\_

	THU	FRI	SAT
	4	5	6
	11	12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	13
	18 Children's Home Board Meeting	19	20
	25	26 FWB Day of Prayer	27
	4	5	6

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

## *Free Will Baptist Learning Center PTA Officers Induction*

*by Ms. Adelia Cuba*

To God be the Glory!

We thank God for giving us strength for the school year 1998–99. We organized the Parents Teachers Association for our Kindergarten department. On August 17, 1998 we had an Induction program, the Rev. Antonio Samones, Jr. was our devotional speaker. It was followed by induction of the officers. Our inducting officer was the Rev. Antonio Samones, Jr. The children presented some action songs and rhymes. Parents and teachers both enjoyed the program. After our program we had refreshments, together with parents, kindergarten pupils and teachers. During the induction, some of the parents were not able to attend because of the rainy season, but most of the parents were there to support the said occasion because they know that it is the obligation of the parents to the school and their children. Please continue to pray for the kindergarten pupils and teachers and most especially the parents.



### *Into All The World, Continued*

expenses. The need is nearing the critical level. Long ago the Board implemented a policy whereby they will not borrow any money to carry on the work, but will rely on and function with the gifts that it receives. When giving drops to the point that the budget can no longer be met, the work on the foreign fields will begin to shut down. Is that what we as a denomination want? Do we think that this is what God wants? I'm convinced that it is not!

What you are reading is not an exaggeration. The need is real! I'm asking that you pray and determine

what God would have *you* to do to help us meet this pressing need. Jesus taught us that there is nothing in this world of any more value than a soul. Won't you help us to continue reaching souls for the Kingdom of God? Won't you give that the Foreign Mission work of the Original Free Will Baptist church may grow even stronger and do even greater things than it has done in the past? We are commanded to go into *all* the world and to preach the gospel. This can only be done as God's people pray and give.





A CALL TO YOUTH AND ADULTS TO ATTEND THE

# Annual World Missions Conference

**FEBRUARY 28, 1999**

Sponsored by the Board of Foreign Missions

College Hall, Mount Olive College

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Schedule:

First Session — 5:00 PM

Light Meal — 6:00 PM

Final Session — 7:00 PM



Young Ladies from Sandy Plain



Steve Shamblin



Youth With A Mission

## SPECIAL MUSIC

**The Young Ladies from Sandy Plain**

An exciting program of music, drama and message has been planned.

## SPECIAL GUEST

**Steve Shamblin**

with *Go Forth Ministries International*

He has spoken to youth and adults around the world and will challenge our hearts for greater service.

## *Youth With A Mission (YWAM)*

is sending a team of young people from Colorado.

They will present an exciting drama on missions.

Please attend! This will be one of the greatest

Mission Conferences we have ever held.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE - RESPONSE NEEDED

A light meal will be served, at no charge, but in order to prepare a sufficient amount of food we need to know how many from each church will be attending. Please call our office (252) 746-4963 by February 24 and give the church name and the number that will be attending. (If no one is in the office, please leave the information on the answering machine.)

**WHY NOT MOVE YOUR EVENING SERVICE TO COLLEGE HALL  
AND RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF THE CONFERENCE.**

# Foreign Missions Annual Telethon

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 1999**

Theme: "Things That Really Matter To God"

Theme Verses: 1 John 5:11-13

**LIFE**



A gift from God.

**SALVATION**



A gift from God.

**ETERNITY**



A gift from God.

**WORLD MISSIONS**



A gift from God to the world through His Church.

The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions is an excellent time to express our love and thankfulness to God for His rich blessings through prayer and giving.

**Goal 1999:** A total of \$135,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.



This goal can easily be reached if we who have life in Christ give from a heart of compassion to reach those who are spiritually dead.

**PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL**

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:30 PM

**Dial (252) 746-4963.** Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will bear testimony of your unselfish desire to share the Life of Christ with the whole world.

**A CHEERFUL GIVER BLESSES GOD AND GOD BLESSES IN RETURN.**

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL & WORLD MISSIONS**  
**MARCH 28, 1999**

True prayer cries daily for revival and sees the world with a broken heart.

**PRAYER GOAL**

**MARCH 28, 1999:**

All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival. Let us Pray!



**BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**  
**(OFWB INTERNATIONAL)**  
Post Office Box 39  
Ayden, North Carolina 28513  
(252) 746-4963



## 193 Graduate at December Commencement

Approximately 1,400 people gathered at College Hall on Saturday, December 19, to celebrate the accomplishments of 193 graduates. The ceremony was the College's second ever mid-year commencement.

Prior to receiving their diplomas, students representing the College's locations in Mount Olive, Goldsboro, New Bern, Wilmington, and the Research Triangle Park attended a worship service at Rodger's Chapel.

The Rev. Richard C. Boyd, Adjunct Religion Professor and Adjunct Assessment Counselor for the College's New Bern location, gave the commencement sermon. Dr. Boyd teaches the religion classes for the Management and Organization Development curriculum and about half of the new Church Ministries program at New Bern. He is pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Beaufort.

The Rev. Frank Harrison, campus chaplain, presided, and Dr. Penny L. Ziemer, and instructor at the College's Goldsboro site, gave the commencement prayer.

Boyd spoke on the biblical comparison of the kingdom of heaven to a grand wedding feast. He urged the graduates to live for God so they can be invited to the great celebration. He told them that their futures are filled with possibilities.

"This is time of gladness and thanksgiving," he said encouraging the graduates. "This is also a time for thoughts of 'what now?'"

Others who were platform speakers at the worship service included the Rev. Sherman T. Dilley, pastor of Northeast Free Will Baptist Church, Mount Olive, and Mr. Mark A. Wilkinson, president of the senior class. Sharon Zirkle, a sophomore music major, was the program soloist.

Later that afternoon, Lois G. Britt, Public Affairs Director at Murphy Farms, Inc., gave the commencement address. Ms. Britt is a successful businessperson who has served on many boards including the UNC Board of Governors, Commission for Competitive North Carolina and the Global Transpark Commission.

Ms. Britt, a Mount Olive resident, worked for the Duplin County Agriculture Extension Service for 34 years. She earned a master's degree in adult education from North Carolina State University in 1969 and a bachelor's degree from East Carolina University in 1956.

A total of 165 students were awarded the Bachelor of Science, 20 received the Bachelor of Applied Science, five of Bachelor of Arts and three the Associate in Science.

Other participants in the graduation exercise were: Dr. Eugene M. Sumner, chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee of the



*Julie Wetherington received two degrees at December commencement exercises, a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts. Throughout her collegiate days, Julie had plenty of support from her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wetherington of Craven County. The Wetheringtons attend Gethsemane Free Will Baptist Church.*

Board of Trustees, Mr. Wilkerson, Dr. J. William Byrd, President of the College; Dr. Vincent W. Beach, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Mr. L. Marvin Edwards, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Mr. John W. Blackwell, Jr., President of the Alumni Association; Dr. Opey Jeanes, Vice President of Special Services, and Gary F. Barefoot, Faculty Marshall.

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir sang two spiritual selections. The Mount Olive Community Instrumental Ensemble, directed by Mr. David S. Stentz, Jr., provided music for the prelude, the processional and the recessional.

## A Family Affair at Mount Olive College

Lenwood and Laurel Smith have become pretty familiar with Mount Olive College over the last 10 years. Not only did they send their oldest child to Mount Olive; they have two other children currently enrolled.

The Smiths attend Saint Mary's Free Will Baptist Church in New Bern and love the Christian-based, one-on-one atmosphere at Mount Olive College. For that reason, all three of their children either received or are receiving an education at the College. The oldest, Len, graduated in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in Biology. David is a junior majoring in History and Business Administration while Leslie, a freshman, is majoring in Biology.



## *A Family Affair at Mount Olive College, Continued*

Mrs. Smith said she and her husband first learned about the College by talking to an enthusiastic Dianne Riley who serves as the College's Director of Alumn Relations. Mrs. Riley was teaching Sunday school at their church when she told the Smiths about the College. The Smiths jumped at the opportunity of keeping their children in a private, Christian-based learning environment. All three of them attended a private Christian school throughout elementary and high school.

Mr. Smith said he believed his oldest son got a quality education at Mount Olive so he was excited when his other children decided to enroll. "I like the education my children are getting and I like the atmosphere," he said.

Mrs. Smith agreed. "I know when they are at Mount Olive College I don't have to worry about it and that means a lot. It's a more secure environment with a good biblical background."

After graduation from Mount Olive College, Len went on to earn a master's degree in ecology from North Carolina State University. He currently works for Dames & Moore, an international engineering and environmental consulting firm. Len and his wife Mary, also an alumnus of the College, have two children and live in Maryland. They both returned to their alma mater in November for the annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend.

Len said Mount Olive College gave him the foundation he needed to start a successful career. "The greatest thing about Mount Olive College is that you develop good relationships with advisors," he said. "You're not just a number."

Leslie and David said they chose Mount Olive College for similar reasons. David said he wanted to attend a small college because he knew that his professors would get to know him and care about his future. Leslie

agreed, "There is a small atmosphere here with good, nice, friendly people. If you get into a bind people will help you out of it."

The tradition of Smiths attending Mount Olive College could continue in years to come. Len and Mary have

two young children, four-year-old Lena Marie and one-year-old Rachel Aron. Both youngsters looked excited about being on campus during Homecoming Weekend. Maybe the two youngest members of the Smith family will keep the tradition going.



*The Smith family has supported Mount Olive College for several years. Parents Lenwood and Laural Smith pose with their children during the Pickle Classic Basketball tournament held at the College in November. David (left) and Leslie (center) currently attend the College while Len (back right) and his wife Mary graduated from Mount Olive a few years ago. The younger members of the Smith family, four-year-old Lena Marie and one-year-old Rachel Aron, may be on their way to Mount Olive too.*



*New and re-elected members of the College's Alumni Association Board met for a business session during Homecoming Weekend in November. The board officers are John Blackwell, president; Marvin Waters, president-elect; Jerilyn Lee, vice president; Earl Worley, immediate past president; Genevieve Taylor, secretary; and Howard Scott, representative to the Board of Trustees.*



THE NINTH ANNUAL  
**VIVIAN B. HARRISON MEMORIAL LECTURE**

THEME: THE PROPHET SPEAKS TODAY

GUEST LECTURER: DR. LLOYD R. BAILEY  
 BARROW PROFESSOR OF BIBLICAL STUDIES  
 MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Tuesday • February 23, 1999 • 9:30 AM

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center • Mount Olive College • Mount Olive, North Carolina

*Schedule of Events*

Registration (no fee) and Coffee with Dr. Bailey	8:45 AM
Lecture One	9:30 AM
Break and Refreshments	10:30 AM
Worship Service, Sermon by Dr. Bailey, Rodgers Chapel	11:00AM
Luncheon (\$8.00) and Dialogue	12:00 NOON
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center	
Lecture Two	1:30 PM

*About the Vivian B. Harrison Lecture...*

The Vivian B. Harrison Lecture was established by the Reverend Frank R. Harrison in memory of his wife. The purpose of the lecture is to provide a medium for continuing education for the ministers and lay persons of eastern North Carolina.

Mrs. Harrison was a graduate of Mount Olive College and Barton College, where she earned a B.S. degree in elementary education. She taught public school in North Carolina for 17 years before retiring in 1986 due to illness. She was a member of Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Greene County and was the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Beamon and the late Mr. Charlie T. Beamon of Walstonburg, North Carolina

The Reverend Frank Harrison is a graduate of Mount Olive College, Barton College, and the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has completed two years of post-graduate studies in pastoral care and counseling at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. Mr. Harrison has served as Campus Minister at Mount Olive College since 1971 and teaches courses in practical theology.

*About the Harrison Lecturer...*

Dr. Lloyd R. Bailey, Sr., is the newly appointed Barrow Professor of Biblical Studies at Mount Olive College. From 1971 until 1998, Bailey was Professor of Old Testament Studies at the Divinity School, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. He received his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from the Jewish Institute of Religion, Hebrew Union College. He is a graduate of Mars Hill College, Duke University, and Duke Divinity School. Prior to joining the faculty of the Divinity School, he served as a professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York. He is an ordained minister and has served as a pastor in the United Methodist Church.

A scholar of international reputation, he is the author of numerous books and articles. His books include *Where is Noah's Ark* (Abingdon Press) and *Biblical Perspectives on Death* (Fortress Press). His work is included in the *Encyclopedia Americana* and *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. He also edited *The Work of God: A Guide to English Versions of the Bible*. He holds several professional memberships and remains active in the work of the North Carolina United Methodist Conference.

For further information contact, Dr. K. David Hines, Chairman, Department of Religion, Mount Olive College, 919-658-2502.

## Coordinator Chosen



Ms. Marin Bandel  
Consultant/Coordinator for Deaf  
Missions

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism is happy to report that Ms. Marin Bandel of Fayetteville, NC, has been retained to serve as a consultant and coordinator for Original Free Will Baptist Deaf Missions. Marin brings a valuable perspective to Deaf Missions because of her experience with the deaf. She has taught sign language classes for the hearing through Fayetteville Technical Community College from

1979 to the present. Her involvement for twenty years interpreting for the deaf community has taken her to a variety of settings: hospitals, doctor visits, college classes, funeral services, weddings, child birth classes, church and Sunday school services, work place conferences, public

meetings, and others.

Marin is a graduate of Fayetteville State University and works as a full-time medical secretary. She is a member of Covenant of the Deaf Free Will Baptist Mission/Church in Hope Mills, where she faithfully serves as interpreter and coordinator for Deaf Ministry.

Marin states, "It is my privilege to serve the Risen Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, in any way that He sees fit to direct me." She further declares that her association with the deaf has brought a return of blessings on her life that are too great to be anything less than the hand of God. God has given her a talent to learn and use the language of the deaf that she may tell the deaf of His great love for them.

Pray for Marin as she moves forward in developing ministry for Deaf Missions. You may be interested in learning and participating in Deaf Missions. If so, contact your department of Home Missions and Evangelism at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or (252) 746-4963.

## FWB PRESS

Vacation Bible School Materials Are In:  
Cook, Augsburg, Gospel Light, Child Evangelism, Concordia

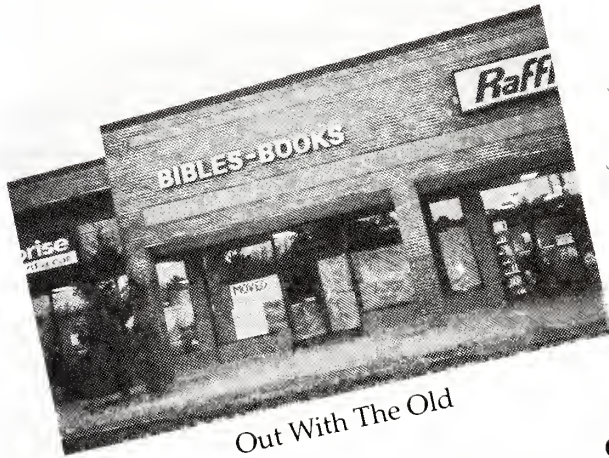


Standard Publishing Kits  
are now available

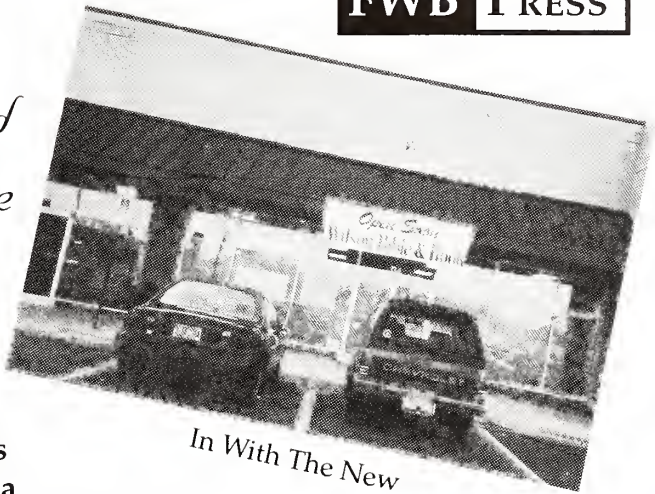
Bible and Bookstores of  
Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson



*Wilson  
Bible and  
Bookstore  
Has  
Moved*



Out With The Old



In With The New

**New Address  
Gateway Plaza  
2800 B-4 Raleigh Road • Wilson, NC 27896  
Between the New Winn Dixie and Kmart  
252-243-4982 or 800-875-4175**



Mrs. Ollie smiles as she works.



Mrs. Cayton trying to hide as we pack to move.



Press employees helping with the move (pictured above and below).



Worked Mrs. Ollie's shoes right off.



Mr. Gray - Doing what he does best, supervise.



Mrs. Frances Davis all smiles as she packs to move.



Boxes waiting to be unpacked.





## *Youth Group Hard at Work at Powhatan*

by Rita Otto Jones

Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, hosted a Youth Revival on November 27, 28 with guest speaker, Scott Satterfield. He is a freshman at Mt. Olive College, the Youth Minister at Lee's Chapel in Benson, former President of the Cape Fear Conference Youth Fellowship, and the secretary of the State Youth Fellowship. His message both nights applied not only to the youth but to adults as well. Skits were presented both nights and the Youth Choir performed as well as having special music from Kristen Davis and Krystal McLeod.

November 29 was Youth Sunday with the youth taking over the jobs of superintendent, secretary, teachers, ushers, choir, etc. Brandon Narron, 15 year-old son of Frank and Ann Narron, stood in for the Rev. Jim Bogle with the morning sermon. He did a wonderful job!

The Youth Group attended the Youth Rally at Smithfield on December 5. The banner for Youth attendance came back with Powhatan again to keep until February, since there is no January meeting. Thank you to all officers of the Cape Fear Conference who are stepping down (or moving up) and good luck to all the new officers taking over for a new year.

A visit was made to the Bryan Center to carol and entertain the elderly residents by the Youth Group on December 11. There were about fifty youth and adults involved in the visit. Members (and residents) Mrs. Ethel Stephenson and Mrs. Leona Coates especially enjoyed the singing. Fruit was passed out to the residents. The caroling continued at several other homes before the group finished up around 9 PM.

A Christmas Dinner was hosted by the Kimery Ard Sunday School Class for all senior citizens on December 12. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and door prizes. The dinner offers the opportunity for us to show love and appreciation to the elders of our church and community during the special season.

The Youth Christmas party was held on December 18 and officers were elected and given charges for their duties for the coming year. Results of the elections follow: President — Roberta Widhalm; Co-Vice President — Cynthia Narron and Kristen Davis; Secretary — Nikki Jones; and Program Coordinator — Dani Allen. These officers will help Wanda Benson, Youth Director, in planning and directing youth activities for Cherubs, AFCs and YFAs.

The Christmas play on December 20 looked at Christmas "Yesterday and Today." We shouldn't lose the true meaning due to the hustle and bustle of activities going on during the holidays. Thank you to Kathy Allen and Teresa Barbour (co-directors) as well as to all participants, stage and costume helpers, singers, etc.

The Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a candlelight service on December 27 (postponed from December 23 because of the ice storm). The sanctuary was filled with carols and rejoicing during the special ceremony.

## *Joyful News from Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church*

The Christmas spirit was certainly in full swing at Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC, throughout the past few weeks. Several services were devoted to the celebration of the birth of our Saviour. Each had a different theme and involved different segments of our congregation.

We began the advent season as we have the least several years — with our Hanging of the Greens service on November 29. During this beautiful evening service, we adorned our church with usual decorations — a Poinsettia tree, garland, candles, wreaths, and a Christmas tree complete with ornaments. Each decoration was done while a member explained its significance. All attending the service had the opportunity to participate, making everyone feel important. The decorations in our church as well as our homes have greater meaning when we understand the traditional and spiritual significance of each.

On December 13, we had what is to many the favorite of our Christmas presentations which is, of course, the children's program. This year the play, entitled "Free Gift," emphasized humanities resistance to accept the free gift of salvation. Angel Gabriel and Johnny Angel find themselves in the middle of a busy department store on Christmas Eve. Their heavenly mission is to find someone willing to accept the free gift of salvation. They encounter many busy shoppers who have no interest in their gift. They are all in a hurry and more interested in material things. Finally, a shopper takes time to listen to their presentation and accepts salvation. Needless to say, his life is changed forever, demonstrating the true meaning of Christmas. The play relays a beautiful message while giving our little stars the opportunity to shine.



## People & Events

### *Joyful News from Ormandsville...Continued*

We continued our Christmas festivities on December 21 with a cantata entitled "Let Every Voice Sing Christmas" presented by our adult choir. The program combined new songs with contemporary arrangements of traditional carols. Narrators were also incorporated, dramatizing the birth of Christ, describing his life, and praising the Father for His gift of love. The uplifting service presented the

Christmas message through a medium that could be enjoyed by both young and old alike.

Our celebration was continued on December 31, New Year's Eve. Many members gathered at the church to fellowship over a pot of black-eyed peas. After the meal, we shared in song and testimony. We ended 1998 and began 1999 on our knees around the altar, giving thanks to our Lord for the years that had passed and

praying for a new year blessed with His grace.

While Christmas may be over, it is our hope that the high spirits generated by the season will take us well into the new year. We hope to carry the message of Christ in our hearts year round. May we all continue to praise the Lord and give thanks for the miracles of the birth, life, death, and Resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## *British Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church Fire*

*by the Rev. Gordan Hart*



*Broken windows and smoke damage bear witness to the charred interior of the church.*

About 9:25 AM on Tuesday, January 5, 1999, Kathy Farley went to her mail box and noticed a peculiar smell. She looked across the road toward the church and saw a "muddy looking brown something" coming from the eaves of the church. She immediately called to Tommy and Michael Daughety who were in the next yard. They looked and saw smoke rolling by this time from the top part of the church. Both are volunteer firemen. They immediately called in the fire on 911. Then they quickly jumped into action, got the fire trucks and equipment moved to the church. They spread the hose and had everything ready for the firemen who had to come from their various

jobs. They were in contact with Sand Hill Fire Chief, David Jones, also a member of British Chapel, as he was enroute to the fire.

The following fire departments responded to help our Sand Hill Volunteer Fire Department: Hugo, North Lenior, Wyse Fork and some firemen from Sandy Bottom. They all did everything they could to put out the fire.

Thanks to their efforts, they were able to save the fellowship hall that was dedicated in February of 1998, to the Rev. Robert Fader who pastored British Chapel Church until the time of his death.

There is extensive damage to the present sanctuary and the old section of the church that had been there since approximately 1874, was totally destroyed.

All contents of the sanctuary were completely destroyed, as well as the Sunday school rooms which were in the old part of the church. The vestibule was spared and an old oak table and two chairs were saved from that part of the church.

The choir room suffered extensive damage, but the choir books were spared.

The origin of the fire was on the floor level between the organ and the baptistry. It is believed to have been an electrical fire, but the exact cause cannot be determined at this time. The fire is still under investigation even though it is a non-suspicious fire. The SBI, etc., want to be able to give the church people a reason if possible. The firemen who fought the



### *British Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church Fire, Continued*

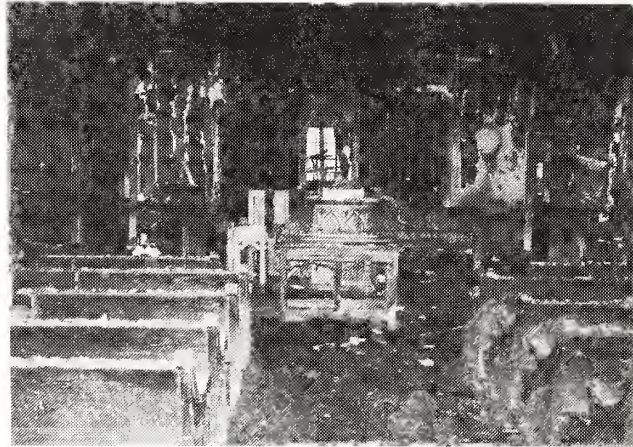
fire really want to know what caused it.

The church and contents were insured but not at replacement value. It is not yet determined whether the standing outside walls can be used or if the building will have to be bulldozed and start from the ground up. The church will not be able to make that decision. It will be made by a professional engineer who is to be sent by the insurance company.

Temporarily, the church is conducting Sunday school and church services in the Sand Hill Volunteer Fire Department near the church.

As a pastor and church, we have been so overwhelmed with the way God's people have responded to help us and encourage us. We covet the prayers of everyone as we wait before the Lord for the direction of the rebuilding.

Many churches have offered their facilities and we appreciate it, but feel we want to stay in the community. The Lord has supplied a piano and song books which we were able to use in the first service in the fire hall. In fact, many people whom we had been trying to reach in the community were at our service on Sunday.



*Interior damage was extensive as evidenced in these photos.*

Any individuals or churches wishing to assist us financially should send their contributions to: British Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, c/o Barbara Daughety, 2680 Highway 55 East, Kinston, NC 28501.



### *Kings Cross Roads Church Note Burning*

The Rev. Bruce Jones, Pastor of Kings Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church, Farmville, NC, held a Note Burning Ceremony Sunday, January 10, 1999, during the morning worship service.

The church started construction of a new 446 capacity sanctuary in March, 1995. It was completed in September, 1996, in time for Homecoming services. Two years later, September 1998, our Homecoming offering helped to provide sufficient funds to pay off the loan in full.

The Rev. Jones and the congregation of Kings Cross Roads Church would like to thank everyone who had a part in the building of our new sanctuary. The Lord has truly blessed us and we give God all the glory.





## People & Events

### Youth Convention District Directors

#### ALBEMARLE

James & Kathy Cahoon  
PO Box 125  
Columbia, NC 27923  
(252) 796-1412

Ann Collier  
(252) 927-4837

#### CAPE FEAR

Karen Honeycutt  
147 Rollingwood Drive  
Dunn, NC 28334  
(910) 892-3143

#### CENTRAL

Judy Jones  
4986 Ayden Golf Club Road  
Ayden, NC 28513  
(252) 746-6293

Donna Tyson  
5550 Dilda Church Road  
Fountain, NC 27829  
(252) 749-6801

#### EASTERN

Angie Piner  
750 Ward Field Road  
Vanceboro, NC 28586  
(252) 244-0389

#### PEE DEE

Faye Bryant  
515 Pinelevel Church Road  
Nakina, NC 28455  
(910) 642-8209

#### WESTERN

Cathy Creech  
1081 Creech Church Road  
Kenly, NC 27542-9504  
(919) 284-4589

#### MOC ON-SIT COORDINATOR

Dianne B. Riley  
1012 Cooper Court  
New Bern, NC 28562  
(919) 658-2502  
(800) 653-0854 MOC

### Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists 1999 Project Home Missions

Administrative  
Building for H'mong  
in California

Goal: \$10,000

Please help us provide a shelter from the rain  
for the H'mong People of California

Send your gift to your District Youth Leader NLT  
March 26, 1999

### *New Youth Convention News*

- Report to Mount Olive College on May 14-16.
- Make a scrapbook including pictures of activities, events, etc.
- Explain these with details
- Bring your scrapbook to the Convention to be displayed.

### *Wanted*

- A very special effort from Youth groups all over the state to recognize their very special youth leader. Please write a letter explaining why your Youth Leader is so outstanding.

### The FWB League Convention

will meet April 17, 1999 at 10:00 o'clock  
Aspen Grove Church, Fountain, NC

### *Note of Thanks*

Mrs. Eunice T. Morris, 500 Pickwich Trail, Apt. 248, Durham, NC 27704, wishes to thank all the individuals, as well as the churches, Sunday schools, and auxiliaries, in North Carolina and Georgia, for all your love, prayers, cards, and gifts during the Christmas season and throughout 1998. She sends all of her love, with prayers that God will bless you in 1999 and in all the years to come. Mrs. Morris continues to live at home, but she has much back pain at times and almost always uses a walker.

## CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. M. E. Cox is available for pastoral supply work. His work ended at Free Spirit Free Will Baptist Church on December 31, 1998. He may be contacted at 4804 Kinlock Drive, Durham, NC 27712, phone 919-479-9995. (Please note that this is a new address.)

Greenville First Original Free Will Baptist Church is seeking an Associate Pastor. The position will consist of involvement in youth and Christian Education. If interested, please contact the Rev. Ronnie Hobgood, phone 252-756-6600.

The Rev. James Warren is available for pulpit supply, on a part-time or full-time basis. He is in good standing with the Eastern Conference. He may be contacted at 649 Poplar Street, Kinston, NC 28584, phone 252-527-1648.

Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church has an opening for an Associate Pastor. Interested applicants should send a resume to The Board of Deacons, Stoney Creek Church, 752 Stoney Creek Church Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534. For further information call 919-735-3916.

Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC, is seeking a youth minister. Anyone who is interested in this position should send a resume to Kathryn Farris, 1399 Pikeville-Princeton Road, Pikeville, NC 27863. Resumes must be received by April 1, 1999.

Mr. Ernest Jones is available for pulpit supply or for revivals. He is a licensed minister in good standing in the Eastern Conference. He is also a member in good standing of Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Newport. He may be contacted at 235 Tom Mann Road, Newport, NC 28570, phone 252-223-2701.

Vandora Springs Original Free Will Baptist Church, Garner, NC, is seeking a full time pastor. Any interested minister may contact Homer McPherson, 436-B Graham Pond Road, Angier, NC 27501, phone 919-894-1228.

## Reader's Comments

"You guys are doing a great job! *The Free Will Baptist* paper is an asset to our denomination. I know you do not hear from us often enough, but rest assured the paper is helpful and very needed by many of us. There is no telling how often I would forget events and obligations were it not for the monthly reminders found in the paper. It has also been a great help to our ministers in that it gives a forum for many to introduce constructive ideas for Church growth and evangelism. I also believe that it is imperative that we as Free Will Baptists keep up with the progress of each ministry, and pray for its success. The paper allows for us to do this because as you know it features each ministry's monthly progress. I really appreciate the hard work all of you do to ensure this ministry continues.

"Thank you for your gift to our denomination."

(Robert Neal Cox, Dover, NC)

"I'd like to take a moment to tell you that I thoroughly enjoy reading *The Free Will Baptist* and look forward to your articles each month."

(Veronica Haskett, Plymouth, NC)

**We would like to hear from you — if you have comments, suggestions, or even constructive criticisms we would like to hear from you. Send your correspondence to: The Editor, Free Will Baptist, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513.**

## A Letter of Praise

Dear Friends,

It is hard for a Christian like me to believe how I have been blessed this Christmas season.

After nearly dying in August and September, God has healed me. Then with my expenses having gone so high during this time, I have received over a hundred Christmas cards, some without gifts; others with money!

My cup runneth over and I can't contain it. I am closer to the Lord than I have been in my 82 years. I go around my apartment praising the Lord, praying to Him and thanking Him for all of these blessings.

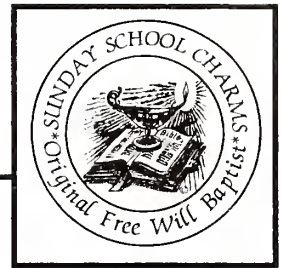
I wish every Free Will Baptist could experience what I have. There would be no bickering, trying to rule, and each church in our state would be overflowing with Godly Christians as our pastors preach the whole truth, real Free Will Baptist Doctrine, and give their money to our causes, especially missions. If this were done there would be no need for drives for bicycles, jeeps, Churches, parsonages, etc., because each church would *all the way*, without holding back any money for outside missions, but give all to Original Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions! May God be praised and convict each church in our state to do this.

Thank you, Thank you Thank you!

(Rose G. Bowen, Ayden, NC)



# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



## February is Sunday School Month Activities for the Month

### FIRST SUNDAY — PRAY

- Devote the first five minutes of class to prayer.
- Establish prayer partners to pray for Christian Education workers.
- Prepare and distribute prayer cards and/or a prayer calendar as reminders to pray.
- Commit to prayer for someone. Write the name on a small card and attach it to a helium balloon or write the name on the balloon itself and release it during worship or Sunday school assembly. Let the balloons float to the ceiling. They will come down in a few hours. Have someone designated to clean-up the balloons when they come down.
- Select a live evergreen tree or an artificial tree and decorate it with heart-shaped valentines. On each valentine, write the name of someone or a ministry (preferably Sunday School) to be remembered in prayer during the month. Each member chooses a valentine and agrees to pray for that person or ministry at least one minute each day during the month.

### SECOND SUNDAY — PREPARE

- Conduct a needs assessment survey to determine the special needs of the congregation as well as the effectiveness of the Sunday school program and suggestions for improvements.
- Invite students to prepare "Thinking of You" cards and mail them to someone in need.
- Prepare valentines for everyone to send to invite someone to Sunday school. The message to be included in the valentine could read, "God loves you and I love you!"
- Have an overnight pajama party for children. Read stories with a Scripture theme. Senior citizens might even enjoy a 'lock-in' at the church to make valentines for someone in nursing homes and/or rest homes during the month.
- Have a "Board" party for adults and play various religious board games for fun and enjoyment.

### THIRD SUNDAY — PRESENT

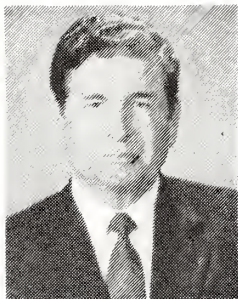
- Prepare a Sunday School newsletter with interviews with Sunday school teachers to allow people to get to know them better.
- Invite the local newspaper or TV station to come and cover the events of the day.

- Begin taking spontaneous snapshots of classes to post on a bulletin board or put in a scrapbook.
- Clip articles and/or pictures from local newspapers concerning people in the congregation and celebrate by posting on the bulletin board.
- Prepare "Hospitality Bags" to be taken home by visitors during Sunday school or morning worship.
- Schedule a monthly "Family Night" for a meal and various activities dependent on the ages of the people. Ask families to invite other families. Honor the family that brings the most people during February on the fourth Sunday which is Sunday School Day.
- The church and/or various Sunday School classes could adopt a community service project for the month of February.

### FOURTH SUNDAY — PROMOTE

- Hold a "Thank You" breakfast or lunch for Sunday school workers. Parents and students should plan, prepare and serve the meal to teachers.
- Begin age-level theme Sundays during the year to highlight each Sunday school class.
- Recognize classes during worship services.
- Prepare a bulletin board to spotlight various accomplishments of Sunday school members.
- Prepare and distribute flyers to share information about your local Sunday school and/or church in general.
- Design a portfolio describing the local church to be distributed to visitors and/or those in the prospect list.
- Have a "Come As You Aren't" Sunday. Everyone dresses as a character or Christian symbol. Prepare a handout describing each character or symbol. Each person decides on his/her identification and turns in 3-4 clues to the Board of Christian Education or some designated person or group. A handout is prepared with each of the chosen characters and/or symbols and their clues. During a specific time, the people mix and mingle to identify each character or symbol. Prizes will be given to the best costume in each Sunday school class. During the worship time, each costumed person will give a reading about his/her character or symbol.
- Designate this Sunday as SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY.
- Receive a special offering for the work of the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Board.

Choose from these activities those which would offer your Sunday school the most growth. Please inform the Sunday School Board of the effects of the chosen activities. Also, send any other suggestions you have which could be passed on to other churches.



# THE GOLDEN YEARS

Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens



**"Hearth:** the area in front of a fireplace...  
symbolizing the home."  
*(The Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus)*

## *Fireside Reflections On A Cold Winter Night*

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

Many senior citizens can remember when during the long nights of winter the hearth was the focus of family life. Perhaps only one room in the house was heated, and that was by the fireplace. The family gathered there to share the warmth and light of the burning logs.

It was by the fireplace that children hung their stockings on Christmas Eve and gathered early on Christmas morning. The hearth was a place where family members warmed not only their bodies but also their hearts.

With no television, there was time for conversation, time to review the events of the day and to plan for tomorrow. In many homes, the final act of the evening was reading from the Bible and family prayers.

So central was the fireplace in earlier times that the hearth became a symbol of home. During the bleak days of the Great Depression when President Roosevelt was trying to give the American people hope and courage, his evening radio addresses became known as "fireside chats." Although generations have passed and wood has been replaced by electricity and gas as the source of heat in almost all homes, the nostalgia of the fireplace remains. With all the technology and comforts of houses being built for a new millennium, we have found no substitute for the intimacy and warmth of the fireplace.

### **Time to Reflect and Ponder**

Regardless of what we achieve in our work, the value of these achievements is in direct proportion to the degree they add meaning and purpose to our lives. There is a time of work, but there should also be a time to think and ponder.

The fireplace with its flames leaping, the fire crackling and its warmth radiating is a good setting for stimulating our inner thoughts and evoking a vision of life. I venture to share with you some thoughts which came to me recently as I sat by a wood fire on a cold winter night.

### **Lessons From The Hearth**

- Just as fire exist by burning, our lives exist by living.
- Just as the fire has to be kindled, our lives have to be nurtured.

- Just as the fire needs poking from time to time to rearrange the wood; so sometimes our lives have to be jarred so that we can rearrange them for more effective living.
- Just as the logs burn away and new ones are put on the fire; even so our lives have to be replenished and renewed.
- Just as no two moments of flames are the same; so each day of life is different, each having its new and creative character.
- Just as a log separated from the others soon ceases to burn; in like manner our lives lose their beauty and warmth when we live to ourselves.
- Just as one log united with other produces a brighter flame; so our lives expand as we share and contribute to the lives of others.
- Just as the greatest heat does not come from soft wood that burns quickly but from the slow burning of solid logs; in like manner the power of our lives is not in their glamour but in our character.
- Just as the coals give more heat than the flames; maturity gives our lives their greatest strength.
- Just as the fanning of coals can revive the fire; the nurturing of our inner spirit can develop our capabilities.
- Just as fire burns from the bottom up and not from the top down; just so in our work with people, those at the bottom of the organization are the ones who keep the fire burning.
- Just as no log lasts forever, but gives perpetuity to the fire by igniting another; in like manner, our lives have their day, but through the legacy we leave, we live on.

In the Bible, God often used fire as a means of communication: "He makes...flames of fire his servants," we are told, (Psalm 104:3 NIV).

Just as the hearth has become the symbol of the home, the Eternal Flame has become the symbol of the Christian faith. Our homes still need the warmth of the family hearth and all people everywhere need the Life of Him who is the Light of the World. Our mission in life is to not let the fire God has given us go out but to make it burn brightly in our time and for future generations.

1999 (Vol. 4, No. 4) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Julian of Norwich. *Revelations of Divine Love in The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics*. Introduction by Timothy P. Weber. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

## Introduction

Julian Norwich (1342–1416) was called Julian after the Church of St. Julian in Norwich where she retired as a recluse. She had her first religious experience on May 8, 1371, at the age of 25 when she was near death. The parish priest came to her bed in her mother's house. As he held a crucifix before her eyes and began the Last Rites, she fell into a trance and received her sixteen revelations. She lived, wrote about and interpreted these Revelations, and lived in an anchorage built into the wall of the St. Julian's Church at Norwich.

## Historical and Cultural Realities of the 13th and 14th Century

The Black Death broke out in 1347 and by 1350, more than one third of the people living from India to Iceland died, and estimated 20 million. The Hundred Years' War (1337–1437) between France and England wiped out lives so much so that people were obsessed by death.

Add to these incredible problems the feud among the Popes — one in Rome (Urban VI) and one in Avignon (Gregory XI) and the 13th and 14th century seem to be the end of time.

## First Twelve Revelations

Julian of Norwich introduced her faith in the love of God in her first twelve revelations. During her death's-door illness, she had asked God to give her some understanding of Christ's suffering so that she could understand her own. She came to conclude, according to Timothy P. Weber, that her "serious bodily sickness" occurred so that her "faith could be tried and strengthened" (331). She also concluded that the illness and healing was "an expression of God's grace, three wounds, which she identified as contribution, compassion, and longing for God" (331).

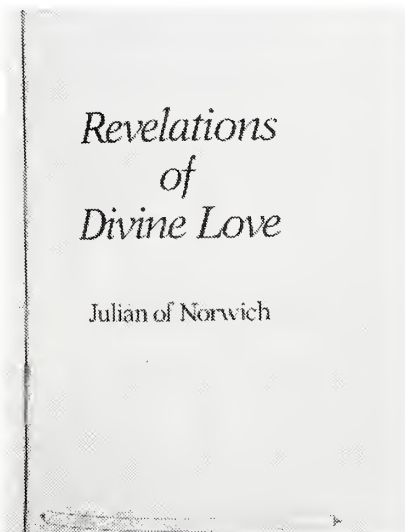
## Cross and Passion of Christ

Julian of Norwich sees the pain of Christ on the cross, the thickness of the blood draining across his face, the ghostly colors of his body, and the agony of his suffering. Three comparisons come to her mind: the blood is like "drops of water that fall from the eaves of a house after a great shower of rain;" the blood spreads over the body "like to the scale of the herring;" the blood is round like "pellets" (344).

The suffering is God's suffering. The pain, contrition, and compassion of the cross experience is what Julian sees.

## Conclusion

The cross becomes the human experience of weal and woe, pain and compassion grief and joy — all one experience as we are taken into the mind and body of Christ to overcome the fiend within. She writes: "And the reason why He suffereth is that He willeth, of His goodness, to make us heirs with Him in His bliss. And in return for this little pain that we suffer here, we shall have an endless high knowing in God" (359).



*Revelations of Divine Love in The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, March 12, 1999 — 7:30 PM and Saturday, March 13, 1999 — 10:00 AM

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

To be held at:  
**Free Will Baptist Press**  
811 North Lee Street • Ayden, North Carolina

If you have any questions call:  
746-6128 or 800-849-3927

*The Free Will Baptist*

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# The Free Will Baptist

MARCH 1999

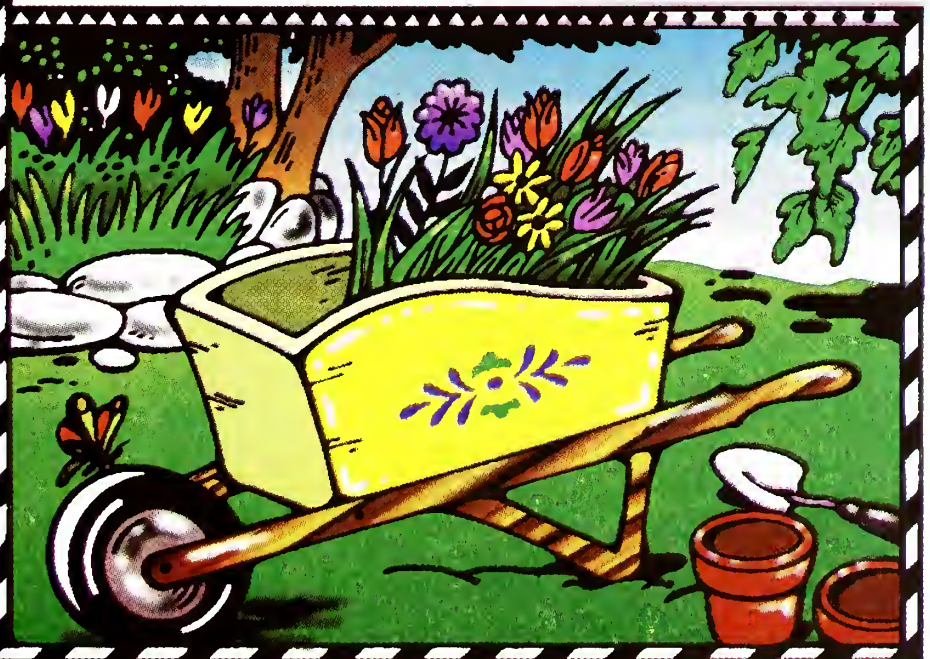
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Part 3

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# Editor's Thoughts



C. H. Overman

## BIBLES AND BOOKS

Browse through any bookstore and you will find myriads of books — novels, biographies, commentaries — the subjects are limitless. Search and you will find the book that interests you. Avid readers can lose themselves in today's world of books. Herein we have a paradox; namely, we have been told that nowadays more and more readers browse through books and magazines, scanning over headlines and pull quotes, reading only headings and subheadings, and yet there are more and more books being written, printed, and purchased. The evidence is in: there are many readers out there who like to delve into the pages of a book. Scanning has its place in this busy world; however, true reading involves concentration that is based on a desire to broaden our knowledge, or it may be for mere enjoyment and pleasure.

Our own bookstores carry a large variety of books and Bibles for the Christian reader — books of interest to ministers, church workers and leaders. The pastor or Christian worker who is seeking more knowledge and information really has no excuse. There's a large variety of books on church and Sunday school growth. The pastor interested in broadening his knowledge in theology, or simply is searching for help in sermon preparation, can find it. Occasionally, when I need to step out of my office, I will spend a few minutes in our bookstore. In browsing through the shelves, I become amazed at the many books that are available, especially when I remember that books have to have authors. I sometimes wonder, "Who are these people? What qualifies them to write a book?" Some of these writers, of course, are well-known Christian ministers and leaders, and I appreciate their insights and abilities to express their views and opinions, as well as the imparting of Bible truths (in most instances). We are aware, however, that not all Biblical exposition and interpretation is sound, or true to the Word. Of this we must be careful, especially in reference to our own (FWB) beliefs and doctrines. Our doctrines, beliefs, and practices are unique. If we become indifferent, or let down our guard, we will be taken in by those who are promoters of the mega church and enemies of denominationalism. (We will say more about this in a forthcoming editorial.)

Not only do we find a large influx of new books on the shelves, we also find a large number of new study Bibles. In addition to the old standbys, such as *The Scofield Study Bible* and *The Thompson Chain Reference Bible*, there are many others available. We have more than thirty in our bookstore, and there are others that we do not have. Due to limited space, we cannot list them on this editorial page, but we will provide a listing in our next issue. It is interesting that there is a study Bible for women, men, students, evangelicals, and the list goes on. If you need help in your Bible studies, visit any one of our bookstores. In contrast to the secular bookstores, you will find many Christian books and study Bibles to enrich your spiritual life.

## THE ANONYMOUS LETTER

When I was editor of The Free Will Baptist Press from 1958 to 1969, I would occasionally receive an anonymous letter. Each one was immediately placed in file 13 (the waste basket). Some of those years were marked with denominational controversy. A lot of people desired to express themselves, and we allowed them to do so, providing they did not deal in personalities and defamation of another's character, and as long as it was within the scope of reasonableness and constructive criticism. An anonymous letter, however, was never considered. Such letters do not fall within the category of fairness and honesty. Regardless of the minute good the writer may be seeking to convey, it is canceled by the anonymity.

Anonymous letters are written for the purpose of hurting someone without giving that person the opportunity to directly or forthrightly respond. Anonymous letters are cowardly and do not deserve a response, even if such were possible. When there is a disagreement, a lack of understanding, or something that needs correcting between God's people, the Bible teaches us to go to that person in an effort to rectify the problem. Those who know me have found me to be forthright in such matters — I will go to that person and I will do everything possible to correct the matter. I have been a member of the Rotary Club for many years. There's a song we sometimes sing that contains a line which says, "If something is wrong, let us straighten it out..." We know we cannot do so in anonymity. Thus, if anyone chooses to write to me or to this publication anonymously, that letter will immediately find its way into our shredder, the modern-day File 13.

Incidentally, God uses and blesses those who are faithful, in spite of their imperfections and mistakes. We praise Him for this patience, love, and grace.

## IS GOD PLEASED?

We ask this question in view of the opinion of most Americans, based on certain polls, that dishonesty, and immoral conduct are excusable when committed by the highest elected official of our country. We have shown our willingness to sacrifice morality and honesty for the sake of prosperity. We have a booming economy and a morally declining society. The survival of this society is not to be found on how wealthy and successful we are, but on our faith in Almighty God and the true value found in His Word. It deeply troubles this editor and preacher that so many seem to care so little. May the truth of God's Word resound in our hearts and consciences: "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).



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## NEXT MONTH

*April is  
Home Mission  
and Evangelism  
Month*

*March is  
Foreign Missions  
Month*



## The Church

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Part 3  
Specific Guidelines  
for the Pastor  
by the Rev. Mike Scott

## Minister in Transition

This is the third in a series of articles dealing with leadership in the church: specifically, churches seeking pastors and pastors seeking to relocate. This article will deal with certain guidelines the pastor seeking a new place of service needs to consider. They are presented with the goal of helping the seeking pastor to know God's will for his life and to find the field of service which God has chosen for him to undertake.

The first of these considerations mirrors the admonition which was given to churches in our previous article: namely, the pastor seeking to relocate is to deal with one church at a time. If it is not fair for a church to look at three or four preachers at a time, it is equally unfair for a pastor to "string" one church along while he is considering another.

Over the years churches develop reputations. Some are considered good and easy churches to pastor while others are considered difficult. When one of the "difficult" churches contacts a perspective pastor, it is easy for him to say, "I know I've got this one, but there might be a better one out there somewhere." It is here that the trouble begins. While negotiating with the "difficult" church that is interested in him, the pastor is at the same time sending resumes and contacting other perspective

churches with the hope that a "better" situation will become available. He is always seeking to obtain the largest and the most prestigious church available (with the best salary), and if it takes stepping over several other churches along the way, then that's just the way it has to be.

It cannot be emphasized enough that if it is God's will that both the church and the pastor are seeking, the preacher is not to compare one church with another. He is to follow the direction of God and is to fill that place of service to which he is led. Every church situation is full of possibilities to do great things for God. If a church is difficult, the true man of God can enter into that situation and can bring unity and peace to bear and can calm the troubled waters. If a church is small it can grow, and if it is weak it can become strong. God is in charge of all situations, and if He is in charge of the life of the pastor, then God can use that pastor in a great way. When a church contacts a minister, or when the minister contacts a church, both parties should *immediately* begin to pray that the mind of God concerning that particular church will be known. If He brings the two together, then each should accept the challenge, and the minister must begin to love and "pastor" the people. If God leads either party in another

direction, then we should accept it knowing that God's will and way is always best. There is a place of service for all of God's people and He will guide us to that place as we submit ourselves to His keeping.

Another consideration for the preacher seeking a place of service is that salary is not the most important consideration. There is no doubt that the pastor and his family has to survive, and it is true that a minister has the same financial obligations for food, gasoline, clothing, and the other necessities of life as any one else has; however, when it comes to service for the kingdom of God, there are times when sacrifices have to be made. There are many instances when the church's ability to offer a financial package is the determining factor as to whether or not a pastor will accept that particular church. This simply should not be the case. There is a precious portion of Scripture in the Psalms which we need to be reminded of time and time again: "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:25). God is the One who sustains and provides for His people. Through the wilderness, manna was provided for the chosen people; during the time of famine the ravens came to bring Elijah food. Jesus multiplied



the fishes and the loaves to feed the multitude, and the same Lord Who is in all and is above all is able to provide for His faithful servant. As Peter states, we are "...kept by the power of God..." (1 Peter 1:5), and for the true servant of God there is no better place to be than within His perfect will. In determining a place of service, God's will in the situation should be of utmost importance.

The next guideline is given to the preacher seeking a place of service with all compassion and understanding: don't allow a bad experience in one church to sour you for the next one. It is wonderful when a pastor's ministry at a certain church comes to a close with harmony among the church family, and with mutual love and respect between the departing pastor and the congregation, but this isn't always the case. There are instances where ministers are forced out of the church and often this is done with hurtful words (not only to the minister but also to his family), secret meetings, pernicious gossip, and tension filled business meetings which result in sleepless nights, self doubt, and many even lead to thoughts of leaving the ministry. Many a pastor has been treated horribly by the very people he has loved, ministered to, and cared about for many years. Leaving a church under bad circumstances can severely damage the psyche of a minister and may leave him "gun shy" as he begins to deal with another congregation. He thinks that if the last church could mistreat him and his family, the next church is likely to do the same thing. Because of this, he will enter into negotiations tentatively, or on the defensive.

We should rest assured that every situation is different and that God always has the very best for His servants. It is unfair to a perspective church to attempt to compare it to a previous church. Whatever the minister will face in a new situation

will have its difficulties, but by God's grace it will also have its blessings and rewards. God knows what we need, and He knows when we need it. When we have just come through a difficult situation, we can take comfort in the One Who is able to restore our soul as well as our faith and confidence. While we cannot change or undo the past, we can look forward to the future with faith and with renewed hope, knowing that God is in that future and that He is preparing the way for us. The next church probably won't be anything like the

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*Leaving a church under bad circumstances can severely damage the psyche of a minister and may leave him "gun shy" as he begins to deal with another congregation.*

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previous one, but it will be a fresh, new and exciting beginning to the rest of our ministry.

The last thing that we wish to share with the minister seeking to relocate is that he should know what he expects out of a church. Expectations are an important part of the negotiating process. Consider the following: as ministers, God has certain expectations for our lives, and we should attempt to live up to them to the best of our ability. As we accept a church, that church will have certain expectations of us that we should attempt to fulfill, as we have time and opportunity. Since these two things are true, it is only natural that we have expectations for the church which we are accepting.

As we meet with pulpit committees, they will be relieved if we have a set of goals that we desire for the church to accomplish, a plan to accomplish them, and guidelines for each member of the church to follow in achieving them. The Scriptures teach us that "Where

there in no vision, the people perish..." (Proverbs 29:18). As the shepherd of the flock, we should have an idea of where we are going and how we are going to get there. Our expectations for the entire church (the senior-adult ministry, the youth programs, the Sunday school, the deacons, evangelistic efforts, etc.) should be clearly stated and understood. It may be that the perspective church doesn't share our goals and desires. If this is the case, it is better to know this before the church is accepted than it is to find it out six months into our ministry. A ship cannot sail in two directions at the same time, and a church cannot follow two different plans of action at the same time. The pastor and the leadership of the church need to be in one accord as they attempt to carry that church into the future for the glory of God. This can be done only if the perspective pastor knows what he expects out of the church and as he shares those expectations with the church.

This concludes a three part series on church leadership (guidelines for pastors and churches in transition). We trust that they have been informative, and that God will use them to help both the church seeking pastoral leadership and the pastor seeking to relocate to have mutual admiration and respect for each other, and that He will lead both into the perfect peace of His will. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most precious institution on the face of this earth. God never meant for it to be a battleground or a place where feelings are hurt and distrust is bred. The church has been established to communicate the gospel, to show forth the love of God as it has been expressed in Jesus Christ. Together, God's church and God's minister can fulfill the purpose for which they were called and established. May He continue to bless and to use both until Christ comes again.

# Standards of Christian Conduct

by Roy C. O'Donnell

*In human Nature there is a tendency to go to extremes. This tendency is especially noticeable in matters related to religion and morality. At one extreme are the libertines, who reject all moral restraints; at the other extreme are the ascetics, who practice self-denial to the point of abstaining from all normal physical pleasure and material satisfaction. There is also a tendency in human nature to give verbal allegiance to standards of conduct that we admire but do not actually practice.*

Judaism produced its Pharisees, whose high ideals included some elements associated with asceticism. Many of them professed a higher standard than they practiced, and for that they were roundly condemned by Jesus. In *Matthew 23* Jesus denounces the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees. He likens them to "whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity" (vv. 27-28).

English Puritanism, which began in the 16th century as an attempt to reform abuses of the Christian religion, had a great deal in common with Pharisaism. Puritanism called for high standards of personal conduct and exerted a positive influence on those who sincerely wanted to live a better life, but it also produced its share of zealous hypocrites. Some of their ilk were represented later in American Puritanism. Much that is good in our heritage can be attributed to the Puritans, and we should never minimize their positive contributions to our culture. But unfortunately, it is primarily the negative aspects of the movement that captured enough attention to be generally noticed and remembered. Richard Braithwaite, in his 1638 *Itinerarium*, satirized the English Puritans. He wrote: "To Banbury came I, O profane one!/  
Where I saw a Puritan once/  
Hanging of his cat on Monday,  
/For killing of a mouse on Sunday." T.B. Macauley revealed his negative opinion of

Puritanism in his 1848 *History of England*: "The Puritan hated bear-baiting, not because it gave pain to the bear, but because it gave pleasure to the spectators." And H. L. Mencken irreverently characterized Puritanism, in his *Sententiae*, as "The haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy."

The Puritan ethos has had an extensive and continuing influence, not only on Protestant churches in America, but on our whole way of life. It resulted in many churches imposing legalistic prohibitions of all forms of secular entertainment. Eighteenth century "blue laws," forbidding dancing, drinking, and working on Sunday, reflected Puritan influence, as did the Eighteenth Amendment, in the 1920s, prohibiting the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages. Modified forms of the blue laws are still in effect throughout much of the country today. The intentions behind such laws are commendable, and some of them have helped maintain public standards of morality. But attempts to impose personal moral standards by the external force of legislation do not have a history of success. To be effective, the motivation for morality has to come from within the individual.

Most people today are not comfortable with Puritan standards of conduct. In fact, it seems that many would like to abandon all standards

and do whatever they like. Those who take the trouble to remind us that we should maintain high standards of personal conduct are often subjected to ridicule and, regardless of their motivation, accused of hypocrisy. But at some point every Christian who takes religion seriously is faced with the question: "What is a reasonable and attainable standard of Christian

conduct?" In attempting to answer that question, some would say: "Let your conscience be your guide." But that leads to the question, "Is individual conscience always

a reliable guide?" Others would say: "Read the Bible." But what parts of the Bible should we regard as literally applicable to life in our time, and what about those passages that are subject to varying interpretations? I think both conscience and the Bible are necessary guides, but I also think we have to remember that conscience is formed to some extent by the moral standards of our families and companions, and we have to remember that some serious study is required to sort out the parts of the Bible that apply directly to us. Paul wrote to Timothy: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

It seems obvious that many of the Old Testament rules and regulations governing various aspects of daily life, including what to eat and what to wear, do not apply to Christians. And

...at some point every Christian who takes religion seriously is faced with the question: "What is a reasonable and attainable standard of Christian conduct?"



it is generally accepted that rules governing basic morality, especially the Ten Commandments, do apply to us today. But even the Ten Commandments require interpretation. Most of us have no difficulty abstaining from the making of graven images and worshipping pagan deities, but we need to go beyond the literal words and recognize that it is easy to give first priority to something other than God, and that this can be a form of idolatry. And what exactly in our time constitutes keeping the Sabbath holy? The seventh day of the week was originally the Sabbath; but, in recognition of the Resurrection of Jesus, Christians came to observe the first day of the week. The Pharisees interpreted the commandment to forbid any work on the Sabbath, but Jesus made it clear that under certain circumstances work was permitted. Also, what about the commandment forbidding killing? The Jews never interpreted this as an absolute prohibition against the taking of human life. They engaged in warfare, which frequently resulted in the death of innocent victims, and they used capital punishment for what they regarded as major offenses.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus laid down some ideal standards of conduct. He said the standard shown by example of the scribes and Pharisees was not good enough. He condemned hatred along with actual murder, and lust along with adultery. He advocated love for enemies as well as neighbors, and he said we have to forgive others in order to be forgiven (Matthew 5-7). When Jesus was asked, "Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" He answered "...Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40). In other words, what is of timeless value in the Mosaic Law can be summarized in this law of love.

First generation Christians had to deal with difficult questions about which rules were still valid and which were not. Peter was the first of the Apostles to preach the gospel of Christ to Gentiles. Acts 10 tells how the Lord prepared Peter for his mission through a vision. He was at Joppa, staying in the home of Simon the Tanner, and while waiting for the noonday meal to be served, he fell into a trance and saw what looked like a big sheet of sailcloth being lowered to the ground. In it he saw all kinds of creatures, "whatever walks or crawls or flies." Then he heard a voice say: "Up, Peter, kill

*Paul and Barnabas also preached to the Gentiles, and were confronted by Jewish believers who insisted that those who were not circumcised in accordance with Mosaic practice could not be saved.*

and eat." Peter objected, saying: "I have never eaten anything profane or unclean." The Voice answered: "It is not for you to call profane what God calls clean." To make sure Peter got the message, God showed him the vision three times. While Peter was puzzling over the meaning of what he had seen, messengers sent by Cornelius, a Gentile, arrived and invited him to come to Caesarea and tell them about Christ. Peter went and preached, and Cornelius and those with him were converted to the Christian faith and were baptized.

When Peter went back to Jerusalem, he was reproved for associating with Gentiles. He responded by telling what had happened. When his critics heard this, their doubts were silenced. They glorified God saying, "...Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life" (Acts 11:18). That was not the end of the matter, however. Paul and Barnabas also preached to the Gentiles, and were confronted by Jewish believers who

insisted that those who were not circumcised in accordance with Mosaic practice could not be saved. Consequently, it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas would go to Jerusalem to talk with the apostles and elders about this matter. They told their story, and some of the Pharisaic party who had become believers took the position that Gentiles converts would have to be circumcised and told to keep the Law of Moses. This led to further discussion and debate, after which Peter recounted his experience and asked the council, "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they" (Acts 15:10-11). James was convinced of Peter's argument and said: "Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood" (vv. 19-20). This proposal was accepted, and the outcome of the meeting was that a letter to that effect was sent to the converts at Antioch.

Although the Council at Jerusalem had spoken, the controversy did not end, and Paul had to spend a great deal of time and effort defending the status of Gentiles who became Christians and in helping to define an acceptable standard of conduct for all Christians. In doing that, he emphasized the inadequacy of Mosaic Law, with its meticulous restrictions, as a means of salvation. In Colossians 2:21-23, Paul cautions against some of the things being taught there. He says, "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch! These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value

in restraining sensual indulgence" (NIV). He reminds them that they are identified with Christ in His death and Resurrection, and for this reason they are to "Mortify (put to death) your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5). In Galatians 5:13-14, Paul writes: "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty: only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." He tells his readers that if they are guided by the Spirit they will not fulfill the desires of the lower nature. The behavior that belongs to the lower nature includes, in addition to fornication and indecency: impurity, idolatry, sorcery, quarrels, dissensions, jealousies, orgies, drunkenness, fits of rage, and selfish ambitions. By contrast, "the harvest of the Spirit," Paul says, "is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law dealing with such things as these" (see vv. 16-23).

In Romans 14:1-14, Paul elaborates his thoughts about freedom and the law of love:

"Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that

eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling-block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean."

This is a concise statement of the principle of liberty in Christian conduct. The immediate concern was the uncertainty some had about what to eat and how to observe holy days, but the principle is much broader in its application. Clearly, Paul believed there are some things that Christians must not do, but debatable points of conduct are private matters between the individual and God. We should live and let live, without judging one another. Paul is realist enough, however, to know that not everybody will follow his advice, and he calls on those who are strong in the faith to be considerate of those who are not:

Clearly, Paul believed there are some things that Christians must not do, but debatable points of conduct are private matters between the individual and God.

"But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for

peace, and things where-with one may edify another. For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who

eateth with offence. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (vv. 15-23).

If I understand correctly, Paul is saying that in Christ we have freedom; but we are not to flaunt that freedom. And in a given situation, if we have doubts about whether we should do a certain thing or not, we should not do it. And underlying that is the assumption that we will be motivated by love. Mosaic Law gave detailed prescriptions for conduct in almost every imaginable kind of situation. In Christ we are freed from the intricacies of Mosaic Law, but we are under a higher law, the law of love. St. Augustine said, "If you but love God, you may do as you incline." This saying can, of course, be easily misunderstood. The assumption is that if we truly love God and are guided by His



Spirit, only what pleases Him will be pleasing to us.

While we cannot state specific rules that are always applicable, we can state general guidelines for Christian conduct: *We should avoid doing anything that is physically, psychologically, or spiritually harmful to ourselves and others. Unless a higher principle is involved, we should not violate the laws of*

*the land. Things that we would not want members of our families and our neighbors to do, we ourselves should not do.* As a standard of Christian conduct, the Bible is a necessary guide, but to apply it properly, we have to study its pages carefully, seeking the enlightenment of God's Spirit. If our conscience is shaped under the influence of the Bible and the Holy Spirit, and we are motivated by love for God

and others, we can feel reasonably confident in following the dictates of conscience. If we sincerely seek to follow the law of love as our standard of Christian conduct, we certainly won't go far wrong. And we should always remember Paul's advice: "If you have doubts about whether a certain thing is right, for you it is not right; so don't do it!"

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## Camp Vandemere

# Our Family Enrichment Center

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by the Rev. Owen Arthur

There is a song that goes like this, "Get all excited and tell everybody that Jesus Christ is King." This is what Camp Vandemere is all about, and we are excited about telling everybody about Jesus Christ. As we prepare for another camping season, the opportunities are unlimited for the camp to tell people about Jesus. Each director and each counselor will have the privilege to share the good news of Jesus with the campers as they attend camp.

It is exciting to tell you about our camp by the river. Vandemere means, "Village by the Sea." We are not located by the sea, but we are located by the beautiful Bay River in the town of Vandemere. Many of you have been to the camp and you know this, but there are those who have not been to the camp, and we would like for you to know more about it. When you visit the camp, you can enjoy God's beauty. As you look out over the river, feeling the cool breezes blow, it is a good place to spend a few days relaxing and enjoying God's blessings. Bring your Bible, your fishing pole, and your family to the "camp by the river."

It does my heart good to know that Free Will Baptists have such a place as this — a place where our churches can have retreats, our families can enjoy spiritual renewal, where our young people can come and experience God's love, and where the world does not control the environment. We are a blessed people; we have Cragmont in the mountains, and we have Camp Vandemere on the coast. Today, with good highways, one can easily travel to either in a matter of hours.

You can help the camp right where you are. We would like for you to pray for the camp. Pray that the Lord will use it to win souls and lift up His name. Next, would you consider having a fund raiser? Several churches did this for us last year and it was very helpful to the camp. Camp Vandemere is a special place of blessing for our young people and for our churches. The camp doesn't make any money from the campers that attend; we keep the cost as

low as possible. Because of this we need your help. It is through your generous giving that we are able to carry on the work that God has given us at Camp Vandemere. There is upkeep that must be done and new projects that need to be implemented. Please pray for us and send us your young people this summer.

Memorial Church near Chocowinity is again having their annual Camp Vandemere Revival. The dates are March 8-12, 7:45 each evening. There will be a different speaker each night, and visiting choirs will bring special music. The speakers, as well as the choirs, donate their time and all the offerings received go to the camp. The fellowship is wonderful, the Spirit blesses hearts, and our Lord's name is lifted up. We would like to invite you to come and worship with us during these services. If you would like more information, you may call 252-633-1185. Memorial Church has been doing this for several years.

The fourth room in the family lodge is nearing completion. Gethsemane Church near New Bern is doing the work for us. They have put in the wiring, hung sheet rock, and are in the process of finishing the sheet rock. They came down one weekend, spent the night in the other rooms of the lodge, and did most of the work. The camp is very appreciative for the hard work that these men have put in. It's friends like this that enable the camp to be a blessing to our people.

Let me encourage you to call and schedule a weekend for your church to come for a retreat, or for you and your family to come spend a few days with us at the camp. If you would like to come down for a day and enjoy a picnic, go fishing, or whatever, please give us a call. At the present time I am taking care of all scheduling, you may call me at 252-633-1185.

Just as a reminder, our annual clean-up day will be held on April 24, 1999, at 8:30 AM. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. God bless you!

# Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat

Camp Vandemere, NC

June 4-5, 1999

John 8:32 "...and you shall know the truth..."

**Friday, June 4**

Barbecue Supper

6:00 PM

Fellowship, Sharing, and Prayer Time

**Saturday, June 5**

9:00-9:30 AM

Fellowship Time

9:30-10:15 AM

The Biblical View of Sin

The Rev. Seth Allen

10:15-10:45 AM

Recreation and Fellowship

10:45-11:30 AM

The Biblical View of Salvation

Mr. Randy Tyson

11:30-1:00 PM

Lunch and Recreation

1:00 - 1:45 PM

The Biblical View of Heaven and Hell

The Rev. Mike Scott

1:45 - 2:15 PM

Recreation

2:15 - 2:45 PM

Prayer and Meditation

2:45 - 3:30 PM

Sharing Time

3:30 PM

Benediction

Recommended Reading (Paper back)

*Growing in Christ* (This book may be ordered through the Free Will Baptist Headquarters, Board of Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC (252) 746-4963.

Registration For

## SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

Each person planning to attend the retreat is requested to complete and return this form by May 1, 1999.

**Make checks for overnight accommodations payable to the State Layman's League (\$5.00).**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check appropriate blanks)

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to attend the retreat at Camp Vandemere on June 5, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere Friday night, June 4, 1999.

**Please return this form to:**

Mr. Robert Tripp  
305 Piney Neck Road  
Vanceboro, NC 27586

## Layman's League Dates

March 1 Central Conference Layman's League, Kings Crossroads, 7:00 Supper, 7:45 Business

April 1 Executive Board and Promotional Committee, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7:00

May 7 State Layman's League, Time and Place TBA. If you would like to host, contact Elmer Harrell (747-2894)

May 17 Eastern Conference Layman's League, Memorial FWB Church, 7:00

June 7 Central Conference Layman's League, Ormondsville FWB Church, 7:00 Supper, 7:45 Business

June 4-5 Spiritual Life Retreat, Camp Vandemere



### Church Building Dedication

#### Topet, Palawan, Philippines

by Dario Basingil

During the visitation of the Rev. Harold Jones, together with the Board of Trustees, to the Northern District of Palawan in October of 1998, the Rev. Jones was invited to speak for the Church Dedication at Topet, Palawan. Topet is nine kilometers from Taytay. The jeep could not reach this place and we had to hike across the mountains.

After arriving in Topet, the Rev. Jones preached the Dedication Message with the assistance of the Rev. Nerie Peralta as interpreter. Following the message, the Rev. Antonio Samones, Jr. led in prayer of dedication for the church building. This was followed by a meal and picture taking.



The Rev. Harold Jones and the Rev. Nerie Peralta



Dedication Prayer by the Rev. Antonio Samones, Jr.



Sharing a meal together



Congregation at Topet

### A Letter from Harold Jones, Director of the Board of Foreign Missions

Dear Friends,

The Annual Foreign Missions Telethon will be on March 28. This year's Telethon is extremely important. Funding for the first eight months of the church year has been well below the budget. We have spent all of our unrestricted funds just to keep operating.

I, therefore, ask you to pray seriously about your participation on Telethon Sunday. My prayer is that we will greatly exceed the goal so we can continue to make Christ known around the world.

Thank you in advance for what you will do.

Trusting Him,  
Harold Jones  
Harold Jones

March is  
Foreign Missions  
Month



# Foreign Missions Annual Telethon

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 1999**

Theme: "Things That Really Matter To God"

Theme Verses: 1 John 5:11-13

**LIFE**



A gift from God.

**SALVATION**



A gift from God.

**ETERNITY**



A gift from God.

**WORLD MISSIONS**



A gift from God to the world through His Church.

The Telethon and Day of Prayer for Revival and World Missions is an excellent time to express our love and thankfulness to God for His rich blessings through prayer and giving.

**Goal 1999:** A total of \$135,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached if we who have life in Christ give from a heart of compassion to reach those who are spiritually dead.

**PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL**

Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:30 PM

Dial (252) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will bear testimony of your unselfish desire to share the Life of Christ with the whole world.



**A CHERFUL GIVER BLESSES GOD AND GOD BLESSES IN RETURN.**

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL & WORLD MISSIONS**  
**MARCH 28, 1999**

True prayer cries daily for revival and sees the world with a broken heart.

**PRAYER GOAL**

**MARCH 28, 1999:**

All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival. Let us Pray!



**BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**  
**(OFWB INTERNATIONAL)**  
Post Office Box 39  
Ayden, North Carolina 28513  
(252) 746-4963



## 1999 Summer Camp Schedule

### MORNING STAR

April 9-11, 1999

Teresa Ball — (252) 524-4677  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Grifton, NC 28530

### MINISTER'S CONFERENCE

May 3-6, 1999

Doug Skinner — (919) 596-2456  
817 Lynn Road, Durham, NC 27703

### JUNE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE

June 7-12, 1999

Teresa Ball — (252) 524-4677  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Grifton, NC 28530

### CRAGMONT YOUTH CONFERENCE

June 14-19, 1999

Bryant Hines — (252) 633-2683  
PO Box 266, Cove City, NC 28523

### CHRISTIAN CADET CONFERENCE

June 21-26, 1999

Gary Bailey — (919) 735-3916  
112 Crosswinds Dr., Goldsboro, NC 27530

### YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (YFA)

June 28-July 3, 1999

Janie Sowers — (252) 321-7542  
PO Box 824, Middlesex, NC 27557

### YOUTH FRONTIER CONFERENCE (AFC)

July 5-10, 1999

Frankie Baggett — (252) 746-7850  
5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Ayden, NC 28513

### GENERAL YOUTH II CONFERENCE

July 12-17, 1999

Chris Singleton — (910) 298-3520  
PO Box 162, Beulaville, NC 28518

### GENERAL YOUTH I CONFERENCE

June 19-24, 1999

Bryant Hines — (252) 633-2683  
PO Box 266, Cove City, NC 28523

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

July 26-31, 1999

James Gurganus — (252) 223-5251  
1317 Nine Foot Rd., Newport, NC 28570

### AUGUST WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE

August 2-7, 1999

Teresa Ball — (252) 524-4677  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Grifton, NC 28530

**CRAGMONT NEWS**

## From the Same Folks That Brought You General Youth Conference I...

Introducing

## Cragmont Youth Conference

June 14-20, 1999

Bryant Hines & Craig Simmons, Directors

Cragmont is offering a Brand New week of camp for the summer of 1999! It is designed for kids who have completed the third grade through high school.

**What's happenin' at this new week of camp? Easy...**

**OLD & NEW FRIENDS... BIBLES STUDY ON A YOUNG  
PERSON'S LEVEL**

**CREATIVE WORSHIP... HIGH ADVENTURE RECREATION**

**KICKIN' MUSIC... PRAISIN' GOD**

**AND JUST PLAIN FUN!**

The cost of this great week of camp is only \$210 per camper which includes transportation, food and lodging at Cragmont, daily snacks, group picture, activity fee, T-shirt, and off-campus trips. Obviously, this is a Great Deal for a week that will never be forgotten!

Please complete the registration form below and return it no later than April 10, 1999 with a \$100 deposit. The \$110.00 balance will be due with the return of your forthcoming medical form. Checks should be made payable to Cragmont Youth Conference. Please note: the \$100 deposit is NON-refundable after May 10, 1999. DONT WAIT!!! We will only accept the first 150 registrations for this week of camp.

For further information call Bryant Hines at 252-638-3436 (w) or 252-633-2683 (h) or Craig Simmons at 252-637-3485 (w) or 252-633-9838 (h). Mail your registrations and deposits to: CYC, c/o Bryant Hines, Jr., Post Office Box 266, Cove City, NC 28523.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Completed (June 98) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size (adult sizes) Sm \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_ X-Lg \_\_\_ XX-Lg \_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardians \_\_\_\_\_

## *"A Safe Haven"*

### *-The New Canaan House-*

Preparations are underway to move Genesis House, emergency shelter for girls, to Bailey, NC. Our goal is to have Genesis House moved to the new property by the end of February, 1999. Once Genesis House is moved, then Canaan House will become the new boys emergency shelter in Wilson, NC. Our goal is to have Canaan House opened by March 1, 1999. Please pray for us that we can accomplish all that is needed for this new shelter.

A home environment with dedicated and caring people is what we strive to provide for these frightened and needy children. Every child deserves a decent chance.

A healthy Christian environment, caring staff, and wholesome family life are the fundamental necessities we provide to every child.

*And, please remember to...*

### *"Pray for the Children"*

*"...Along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth..."*

*Isaiah 42:16 (NIV)*



*The painter prepares the walls for a fresh coat of paint.*



*New doors? No problem for Mr. Don Batchelor!*



*All doors and hardware are put to the side, allowing for a new "face-lift" for the kitchen.*



*A special "Thank You" goes to the Youth Group of Black Jack FWB Church of Grimesland, NC for their time and generosity of bringing school supplies, games, and paper products for the children. The group enjoyed their December tour of the campus.*

**Mark Your Calendars Now!**  
May is Children's Home Month  
**Change for Children '99**



## Dedication of Fine Arts Gallery

The Fine Arts Department at Mount Olive College will present a showing of selected works of art by the late Teresa Pelt Grubbs in the fine arts gallery in Laughinghouse Hall from March 17 until April 1, 1999.

On Sunday, March 21 a dedication ceremony will be held at 3:00 PM in the fine arts gallery, naming the gallery in memory of Teresa Pelt Grubbs. A reception will follow in Laughinghouse Hall until 5:00 PM.

Teresa was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Michael Pelt and at the time of her death was the wife of the Rev. Frank Grubbs. She died of cancer on November 26, 1980, at the age of 24. She was a 1974 graduate of Southern Wayne High School and in 1976 received an associate degree from Mount Olive College, where she was the recipient of the Martin Award and the Perret Award for high scholastic honors. She earned a B.S. degree in art education at East Carolina University in 1978, graduating magna cum laude and receiving the award for the most outstanding art student in her class. Among other scholastic honors she was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa at East Carolina University.

In 1978-79 Teresa taught art in the Wayne County Schools at both Carver and Belfast Elementary schools and was a member of the North Carolina Art Education Association. In 1980 she earned a masters degree in art education at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, where she held an assistantship in the art department.

After Teresa's death an endowment fund was established in her memory at Mount Olive College. Earnings from the Teresa Pelt Grubbs Endowed Fund will be used to enhance the program of the Fine Arts at the college. The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony and the reception on March 21. For information concerning gallery hours and group tours, contact the Fine Arts Department at 919-658-7183.



Teresa Pelt Grubbs  
January 17, 1956  
November 26, 1980

## Religion Department Grows

The past year has witnessed unparalleled growth in the number of students majoring in Church Ministries and Religion with over 50 students enrolled as of mid-January. The current group of students include traditional four-year college students, licensed Free Will Baptist ministers, and professionals looking for a deeper walk with Christ.

"It's been an exciting journey," says Dr. David Hines, religion department chair. "I feel that two main factors have led to this growth. First, our dual focus on spiritual as well as academic growth is unique among the colleges in our region. Second, our evening Church Ministries program has provided an education opportunity for working adults to be equipped for ministry."

The Church Ministries Modular program was launched in January 1998. It is designed to deepen participants' understanding of the Christian faith and strengthen their preparation for ministry. Through this program, students can complete the major in Church Ministries in 14 months while taking one course at a time, one night per week. This accelerated program includes courses in the Biblical, historical, theological, and applied areas.

The Wilmington group began in January, but there is still time to enroll in the Mount Olive and New Bern groups. Classes in Mount Olive will begin on Monday, March 8, while the next New Bern group

*Mount Olive College Invites You to Enjoy  
an Evening of Sacred Music with*

**Free Spirit**

at May's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church — Dudley  
Sunday, March 14, 1999 — 7:00 PM

and

**The Mount Olive College Concert Choir**

at Westside Free Will Baptist Church — Kinston  
Sunday, March 21, 1999 — 6:00 PM

will begin on Monday, March 22. For additional information on this program or other services of the religion department, contact Dr. Hines at the College (919-658-2502).

In recent years, the religion department of Mount Olive College has recognized the vital need of Christian education in the life of the church today. Therefore, the department is proposing the addition of a Christian education minor to the degrees offered through the department. This is an excellent opportunity for the College to provide for this growing demand for competent and well-rounded educational church leaders. The religion department hopes to see the Christian education component become a reality for the 1999-2000 academic year.



*Dianne B. Riley, Director of Alumni Relations and a member of the Religion Department, meets with Mike Barnhill, a student in the church ministries program at New Bern. Mr. Barnhill is a member of Saint Mary's FWB Church, Craven County.*

## *Coming Events at Mount Olive College*

### **Sunday School Institute**

**March 6 — 8:45 AM • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

Sponsored by Sunday School Ministries, Mary Dudley, Director.

### **Career Fair/JOB FAIR**

**March 18 — 9:30 AM • College Hall**

Current students and alumni welcome to attend. Inquire about part-time, summer, full-time job opportunities with employers. Perfect way to network with professionals and MOC alumni. For more information, contact Linda Greenwood, Director of Advisement/Career Development, at 919-658-2502.

### **Alumni Family Day**

**March 21 — MOC Campus**

Mount Olive College Alumni Association will host its first Alumni Family Day. Events of the day include:

11:30-2:00 PM	Lunch	2:30 PM	Baseball - Trojans v. Longwood College
2:00 PM	Softball - Lady Trojans v. Coker College	2:30 PM	Art Gallery dedication, Laughinghouse Hall

Youth activities sponsored by the Undergraduate Alumni Association

For more information, contact Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations at 919-658-2502.

### **Easter Convocation**

**March 30 — 11:00 AM • Rodgers Chapel**

Dr. W. Burkette Raper, former president of Mount Olive College, will deliver the annual Easter Convocation message.

### **MOC Trojans v. Kinston Indians**

**April 7 — 7:00 PM • Grainger Stadium**

Mount Olive College baseball team takes on the Kinston Indians in an exhibition game. For more information, contact Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations, at 919-658-2502.

### **Sunday Buffet**

**Sunday — 11:30 AM • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

Mount Olive College invites you to our weekly Sunday Buffet. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 years old and under (includes tax, beverages, dessert).



## *FWB Church Night a Success*

The Admissions Office at Mount Olive College sponsored the sixteenth annual Free Will Baptist Church Night on Saturday, January 23, in College Hall. Over 380 Free Will Baptists from 27 churches were in attendance.

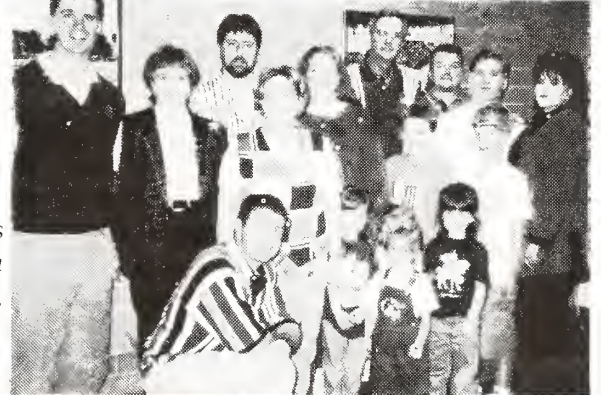
"This was the best Church Night that we have ever sponsored. The turnout was the largest ever, and Mount Olive College won both basketball games," said Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions and member of Rains Crossroads Church.

The church with the most members present was Pine Level Church with 36 members attending. The church was awarded a certificate and banner. Pine Level was followed by Daniels Chapel Church with 35 members; and Ormondsville Church with 31 members.

During half-time of the men's basketball game, church members competed in a three-point shooting match. Also during half-time, high school juniors and seniors were treated to refreshments in the Hospitality Room.



*Pine Level Church — Johnston County*



*Rains Crossroads Church — Johnston County (pictured right).*



*Fiath Church — Johnston County*



*Daniels Chapel Church — Wilson County (pictured left).*



*Bethlehem Church — Duplin County*

Dr. Donald Ribeiro, a physician, checks the pulse on a "Trojan" skeleton during Church night at Mount Olive College. Dr. Ribeiro is also a member of the College Board of Trustees and pastor of Ormondsville FWB Church (pictured right).







# Update

## Spanish Missions

The Rev. Joe Crumpler, Special Ministries Coordinator, reports that Spanish Missions work is progressing in Duplin County, Calypso, NC. A building has been made available for our work unto such time as we may be able to utilize Calypso Chapel. The Calypso Panel Co. has agreed to allow us to use their former office, rent free, as well as the electrical and water services. There are also possibilities of a work starting in the area of East Duplin School District. Churches in Pamlico and Carteret Counties have also offered us the use of their facilities for Spanish Missions.

We have several people who have offered their services as translators/volunteers for this work. Pray that God will send us more co-laborers and that outreach to this target group will bring many to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

## Mobile Ministry



Our Tent is being prepared for another season of service to our churches and institutions. This past year we erected the Tent at the following churches: Elm Grove, King's Cross Roads, Owens Chapel, and Watery Branch.

The Tent was used again in 1998 for the "Singing By The River" at Camp Vandemere and for the Calypso Community Revival. Several events have already been scheduled for 1999. Please call us as soon as possible if we may be of service for your church in 1999 or 2000!

## *Dr. A. Graham Lane Now Serving as Assistant to the Executive Director*

Dr. A. Graham Lane recently resigned from the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism to begin serving as the assistant to the Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism. Effective January 1, 1999, Dr. Lane's responsibilities include coordinating the ministries of Ethnic Missions, Project Kids Kare and the capital fundraising program — The Harvest Campaign.

Dr. Lane's long service to Original Free Will Baptists, and particularly the ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism, uniquely qualifies him for this new endeavor.



A. Graham Lane

For more information on any of the above programs, please contact your Department of Home Missions and Evangelism at PO Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513, 252-746-4963.



## Project Kids Kare



Children, youth and adults have worked hard to prepare approximately 600 Kids Kare boxes in the last few months. Through a labor of love, over 20 churches have filled these boxes with items that other children may need. Special cards saying, "Hello, we're thinking of you, I'm praying for you, and I hope you enjoy these" were in many boxes. A Bible or testament, along with a Bible story book, tells the good news: God loves you and so do I. Yes, a small toy and some candy brings a smile to a child. From North Carolina to California and back to Minnesota, the love of God's people will reach out and Touch Lives For A Lifetime. Remember, this is a year-round project and can be done at any time of the year. Thank you for sharing in this special child evangelism program.

*You and your entire congregation  
are cordially invited  
to attend the Organizational Service for the  
Hillside Original Free Will Baptist Church  
on Thursday, March 25, 1999  
at Seven o'clock in the evening*



## News Flash

# The Scripta-Pal Club

The 1998-1999 theme for the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists is the *Call to Witnessing*. In keeping with this theme, the Sunday School Board is initiating a pen pal club for Free Will Baptists of all ages. There is a great need to learn all we can about each other throughout the denomination. We need to share the activities of our churches, Sunday School classes, youth groups, auxiliaries, men's groups, scout troops, etc. To participate in the club, simply complete the information below, detach and send it to the Sunday School Board, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513-0039 or put the information on a postcard and send it to the same address. The director of the Sunday School Ministry will match the pen pals of like ages and send a package of stationary to each person. Do not delay! Send your data in today so we can start spreading the news of success in our lives in furthering the cause of the Kingdom.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

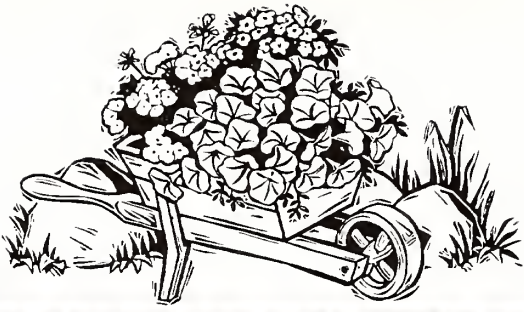
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print all information)



# March

Pray  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Think  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

SUN	MON	TUE	
28	1 Central Conference Layman's League, Kings Crossroads, 7:00 meal, 7:45 business	2 Grand Re-Opening Wilson Bible & Bookstore, 11:00 AM	3
7	8	9	10
<b>CAMP VANDEMERE REVIVAL — MEMORIAL CH</b>			
14 MOC invites public to hear Free Spirit, May's Chapel Church, 7:00 PM	15 Eastern Conference Ministerial Fellowship, St. Mary's , New Bern, 9:00 AM  The Smith Family 15th Anniversary Sing, Powhatan Church, 7:00 PM	16	17   St. F
21 MOC Concert Choir at Westside Church, Kinston 6:00 PM	22	23	24
28 Foreign Missions Telethon Sunday	28	30	31

**THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES**

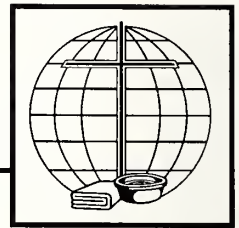


cerns \_\_\_\_\_

remember \_\_\_\_\_

	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Sunday School Institute Mount Olive College
	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> VBS Workshop at FWB Press 7:30 PM	<b>13</b> VBS Workshop at FWB Press 10:00 AM
<b>CH NEAR CHOCOWINITY — 7:45 EACH NIGHT</b>			
	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention, Sarecta FWB Church, 9:30 AM
Day	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Central Woman's Auxiliary Convention, Hull Road FWB Church, 9:00 AM  Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Convention, Robert's Grove Church, 9:00 AM
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



## Holy Ghost Revival

submitted by Veronica J. Haskett

Our three-day Revival turned out to be a wonderful inspiration to everyone. The Rev. Billy Reynolds, pastor of Mount Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Roper, NC, surely gave our revival a boost, delivering a great sermon during our Sunday morning service, "The Love of Christ For Lost Sinners." Through the Word, two young men answered the altar call, accepting our Lord as their personal Saviour. Our regular evening service was visited by the Rev. Rusty Ambrose, minister for the revival, and bass player, Steve Gardner. Everyone enjoyed the ministry in music and song. Special prayer was given for the opening of the revival the next night. Our church was already in revival. Thank you Jesus!

No matter what Christians are striving to do, the devil is busy working, trying to disrupt everything he can. Now he would positively like to have seen this revival stopped. Just before the revival was scheduled to begin, Brother Ambrose's son was taken sick with pneumonia. His wife's grandmother of 92 years passed away. He and his wife had to go their separate ways, she to deal with her family loss in Tennessee while he filled his obligation to hold the revival at Mt. Zion. Some of our special singers were unable to attend because of sicknesses in their families. Another dedicated member was unable to be with us because of a death in the family.

We only have a weekly newspaper for our area. I placed an article in this newspaper announcing our revival, offering to pay for the article if there was any problem. When I purchased my Wednesday paper, the article was not included. I said, "Lord, what am



The Rev. Rusty Ambrose

I going to do? We've got a revival starting in a few days and no one knows it." We fixed flyers from the computer, distributed them to a number of businesses, and began making phone calls. The devil must have been right in the middle of these conversations, because I sure was handed a lot of excuses. I was getting very depressed from so much negativity from everyone. We left early that night for the revival because we had other riders to pick up. The phone rang as we were walking out the door, but the caller had hung up by the time we reached the phone. Since we have "Caller ID," we recognized the name. Realizing

she attended another Free Will Baptist Church, we thought she might be calling to see when our revival was starting. We took a chance and called her, but she said she had dialed the wrong number. She said she would attend but didn't know it in time and had to babysit, but this proves how the Lord moves in mysterious ways. She made it to the revival and four others from her church came also. The devil definitely did not win this time.

Our last revival preacher, the Rev. Bobby Carden, pinpointed our small country church in one of his sermons saying, "There is no place anywhere near this place like this place, so this must be the place!"

From Sunday to Wednesday, approximately 300 people passed through our church doors to worship the Lord. Beautiful music and song were rendered by many and testimonies were shared. The Holy Spirit touched the hearts of the congregation and blessings were overflowing. Prayers were sent out abundantly and the sermons by Brother Ambrose were enjoyed by all attending. We praise the Lord for the seven people who received salvation or rededicated their lives to our precious Saviour.

**Raise Funds for your Youth Group, Women's Auxiliary, etc.**

**Guaranteed 100% Profit**

**Quality Merchandise — Prizes**

**SASCO**

**Gifts & Collectibles**

**Bridgeton, North Carolina**

**Contact Buddy Sasser**

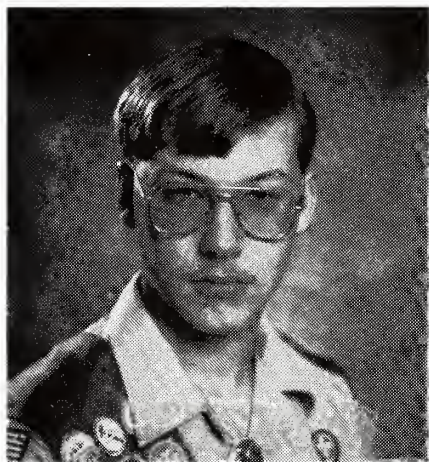
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### Receives Eagle Scout Award

submitted by Susan E. Tyndall



Matthew Scott Tyndall

Matthew Scott Tyndall, son of Mr. & Mrs. Muriel B. Tyndall of Deep Run, NC, has received his Eagle Scout award at a ceremony at Smith's New Home Free Will Baptist Church in Deep Run. Dr. A. Jack Harrell conducted the Court of Honor, which was presided over by the Rev. Walter Sutton, pastor of Smith's New Home. Eagle escorts were Jon Tyndall, brother of Matthew, and Douglas Scott.

Matthew began Scouting with Cub Pack 447, sponsored by Deep Run Free Will Baptist Church, then transferred to Pack 273, sponsored by Rivermont Presbyterian Church, Kinston, where he earned the Arrow of Light and God and Country Awards. Matthew crossed over into Troop 273 on March 1, 1992. He has held the position of Den Chief, Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader and Troop Guide. He has earned 36 merit badges, the World Conservation Award, Den Chief Award, and is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. With the help of fellow Scouts and leaders, Matthew's Eagle project consisted of building and installing closet shelves, rods, and clothes lockers in the dressing rooms at Grainger-Hill Performing Arts Center.

Matthew is a Senior at South Lenior High School and is this year's recipient of the Chris Keel Award and is the Lenior County American Legion Scout of the Year.

### Holly Springs Woman's Auxiliary



Holly Springs Original Free Will Baptist Church Woman's Auxiliary members, Newport, NC, pose with their "Friends of Children" plaque from the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The Auxiliary donated \$100.00. The photo was taken at the December 1, 1998, meeting.



Above: Members of Holly Springs Church are pictured with the December Woman's Auxiliary refreshments.



Susan Davis and Jean Godwin smile as they enjoy the Christmas goodies (pictured right).



# People & Events

## News from the Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists



On January 9, 1999 the officers and district chair persons met to discuss the upcoming convention to be held May 14-16, 1999, at Mount Olive College. The Theme for this year's convention is "Mission Possible." You will want to be a part of this experience!



Convention officers: Scott Satterfield, Corresponding/Outreach Secretary; Brandon Jenkins, President; Clair Taylor, Vice President; Kacey Britton, Recording Secretary; and Kristen Carroll, Treasurer, listened carefully to the new ideas that were presented for this year's convention. Make your reservations ASAP!

### Spring Revival Coming To Powhatan

by Rita O. Jones

On January 9, a hot dog supper was held in the fellowship hall at Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, for participants in the Christmas Play and a viewing of the tape that was made. Everyone enjoyed seeing the entire play, since parts had been missed at the actual performance due to costume changes, scene changes, etc.

At the quarterly business meeting on January 13, Deacon Larry Smith was elected as the trustee to fill the vacancy left from J.C. Blinson stepping down. Following the Sunday announcement that he had received the call, the Chairman of our deacon board and church pianist, Roger Hill, was voted by our fellowship to be licensed as a minister. The Smith Family has had a ministry in song for many years with Rodger playing the piano. At the Youth Day last November, the church received a blessing as his son Spencer accompanied him on the drums. Pray for God to continue to work in his family.

Youth Director Wanda Benson announced there are 20 entries in the Cape Fear Conference Youth Competition for this spring. Thank you to all participating youth and their coaches and supporters.

Spring Revival is coming up at Powhatan on March 29-April 2 with Ruby Owens bringing the messages. We extend an invitation to everyone to come and join us if you can.



Brandon Jenkins, Convention President, opened the meeting with Scripture and prayer.

**Don't Forget  
Youth Convention 1999  
May 14-16  
Mount Olive College**



### North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

On Saturday, January 16, 1999, state and district officers of the Woman's Auxiliary met at Mount Olive College for a workshop and semi-annual Executive Board Meeting.

The morning worship was called to order by Carolyn Jernigan, President. The devotion was given by Amy Scott, who used Psalm 19:6-14. Happy Taylor led the group in prayer.



Total attendance for this meeting was 57, including guests and officers from each of the seven districts.

Dianne Riley and Deborah King opened the workshop, with the help of several other women, reviewing the four basic things every auxiliary member should know: the auxiliary watchword, the purpose, the hymn and the colors, while showing a beautifully painted auxiliary emblem. Dianne and Deborah defined and elaborated on the threefold purpose of auxiliary work: Missions, Devotion and Service, with Missions being the foundation of the auxiliary. Auxiliary members can find the above information in the yearly program book, *Devotion*.

Deborah discussed the art of "Followship" by sharing a transparency focusing on the idea that "Followship" and leadership were inseparable. At this point everyone was to choose a buddy and was given questions to discuss. (Are we being true to our purpose? If not, what needs to be done?) During the "Buddy-Up" session, each



Deborah King

person shared ideas, goals, and potential activities that would enhance auxiliary work.



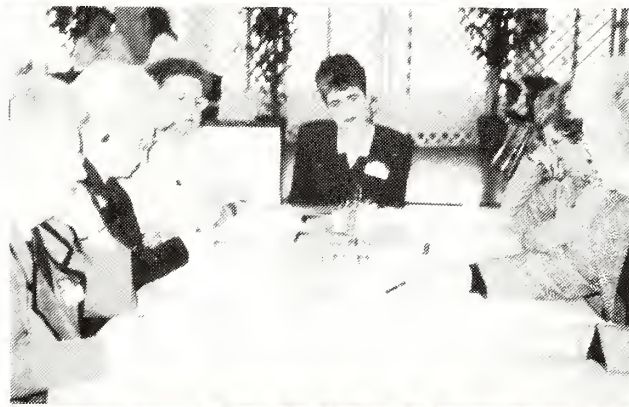
Buddy-Up  
Session

The group then divided by offices into "break-out" sessions to discuss each phase of the Womans' Auxiliary work: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Youth/Christian Education, Missions, Study Course/Devotion, Program Prayer, Field Secretary/Benevolence.





## North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists *Continued*



The workshop concluded with a "wrap-up" session to share the ideas and at least one goal to accomplish during this coming year.



Following lunch in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, the Executive Board met in the Hennessee Room. Carolyn Jernigan called the meeting to order; Deborah King had the opening prayer. Minutes were read by Sandra Jones and approved. Plans for the State Convention, to be hosted by the Western District at Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church near Pikeville on May 13, 1999, were finalized. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM with the Call to Worship at 9:15 AM. The following reports were presented; Literature, Nina Grace Register; Correspondence, Mamie Dail; Christian Education, Dianne B. Riley; Missions, Teresa Grubbs; Youth, Martha Parsons; (Martha yielded the floor to Becky Jo Sumner to present recommendations for the Youth Convention's Election Process. The report was accepted and is to be forwarded to the Woman's Auxiliary Convention in May for consideration); Cragmont, Teresa Ball; Study Course, Deborah King; Field Secretary/Benevolence, Jean Ackiss.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Jean Ackiss.



### *New Director of Youth Ministries at Saint Mary's in New Bern*

February 1, 1999, was a big day at Saint Mary's Free Will Baptist Church in New Bern as Kelly Warrick began her ministry as their full-time Director of Youth Ministries. Miss Warrick is from Clayton, NC where she is a member of Johnston Union Free Will Baptist Church. She is the daughter of Mrs. Sue Warrick and the late William D. Warrick.

Kelly graduated from N.C. State University receiving a B.S. degree in Biological Science – Nutrition. She also completed Dietetic programs of study at Meredith College and East Carolina University.

Feeling the call of the Lord upon her life, Kelly enrolled at

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. This spring she will graduate with a Master of Arts in Christian Education.

Youth Ministry has been an important part of Kelly's life. She served her home church as a youth leader and teacher. She served Sharon Baptist Church in Smithfield, NC as the Church Youth Director. She has served as a counselor and teacher at Cragmont for General Youth Conference for the past nine years.

Saint Mary's has a heart for young people and understands the importance of youth ministry. The church is very excited about having



*Kelly Warrick*

Kelly Warrick as part of their ministry team. She was honored at a reception on Sunday, February 28, 1999 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall at Saint Mary's.

## Eastern Conference Ministerial Fellowship

March 15, 1999

Saint Mary's Original Free Will Baptist Church

314 Fleet Street

New Bern, North Carolina

### Theme: Prayer Evangelism

- 9:15 AM Registration & Refreshments
- 9:30 AM Devotional Worship
- 10:00 AM Session I — "Prayer Evangelism Defined"
- 10:50 AM Break
- 11:00 AM Session II — "Prayer Evangelism Implemented"
- 12:00 NOON "Dutch" Lunch

The Rev. Al Markuson, Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, will be the presenter for both sessions.



*The Rev. Al Markuson*

"It's time for the American Church to see prayer as a first response, not a last resort!"

~ Eddie Smith



# People & Events

## Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Hosted by  
Sarecta Free Will Baptist Church  
March 20, 1999

Theme: The Eternal God

Scripture: "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" Psalm 90:2.

12:00 Hymn #150 "God Will Take Care of You"  
Miscellaneous Business  
Treasurer's Report  
Committee Reports  
Installation of Officers Mildred Jenkins  
Friendship Church

Lunch Announcement  
12:25 Benediction & Blessing Rev. Joe Crumpler  
Sarecta Church

Music Director: Rebecca Hill (Westside Church)  
Pianist: Geraldine Summerlin  
Ushers: Susie Baker, Barbie Smith, Dorothy Smith and Janet Blanchard

Fall Convention will be held on September 18, 1999 at Mt. Zion Church in Pamlico County.

### Camp Vandemere Revival

Memorial Free Will Baptist Church  
Gray Road, Chocowinity, North Carolina  
March 8-12, 1999 7:45 PM

Monday	The Rev. Joel Cannon Smyrna Choir
Tuesday	The Rev. Jerry English Juniper Chapel Church
Wednesday	The Rev. Harry Bryan Spring Hope Choir
Thursday	The Rev. Grady Tucker Pleasant Hill Church
Friday	The Rev. Brian Davis Rock of Zion Church

All offerings go to Camp Vandemere.  
Pastor — The Rev. Owen Arthur

9:30 Registration  
Music Medley Geraldine Summerlin  
Sarecta Church

9:45 Call to Order Judy Kennedy  
Sandy Plain Church  
Prayer for Convention Amy Lanier &  
Sarah Crumpler, Sarecta Church  
Hymn #392 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

9:55 Welcome Janet Jones  
Sarecta Church  
Response Hazel Smith  
Deep Run Church

10:00 Scripture & Prayer Jean Holmes  
Northeast Church

10:10 President's Remarks Cathy Crumpler  
Sarecta Church  
Appointment of Committees

10:20 Report of Denominational Ministries

10:45 Hymn #190 "Have Faith In God"

10:50 Business Session  
Secretary's Report  
Recognition of A-1 Auxiliaries Happy Taylor  
Smith's New Home Church  
Camp Vandemere News Julia Gaskins  
Camp Vandemere  
Convention Offering for Camp Vandemere

11:10 Pin Award Committee

11:20 Special Music Christie Hill  
Westside Church

11:30 Worship Service Lynn Gonzalez  
Wintergreen Church



## *Central Woman's Auxiliary Convention*

**Hull Road Free Will Baptist Church  
March 27, 1999**

Theme: Lord, Teach Us To Pray

Scripture: "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples" (Luke 11:1).

Registration	9:00 AM
Hymn	"All The Way My Savior Leads Me"
Devotion	Gayle Smith
Welcome	Patsy Gabel
Response	Gladys Oakley
President's Greeting	Joan Little
Recognition Time	
Business	
Report of Ministries	The Rev. David Charles Hansley General Administrator
Hymn	"Sweet Hour of Prayer"
Offering and Offertory Prayer	Judy Jones
Youth Report	Judy Jones Donna Tyson
Life Membership	Mary Lou Johnson
Break	
Chorus	"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"
Business	
Installation of Officers	Jean Ackiss
Special Music	Hull Road Inspirational Singers Trio: Karen Perry, Gina Brann, and Loretta Barrow
Introduction of Speaker	May Pittman
Message	Dorlis Mills
Hymn	"Take My Life and Let It Be"
Benediction and Blessing	Leon Grubbs
Lunch	
Song Leader	Leah McGlohon

## *The Smith Family 15th Anniversary Sing*

March 27, 1999

7:00 PM

*Powhatan*

*Free Will Baptist Church*

*Clayton, North Carolina*

*Please Join Us!*

## *Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Convention*

**Robert's Grove Free Will Baptist Church  
Dunn, North Carolina  
March 27, 1999**

9:00 AM	Registration
9:30 AM	Devotions by the Cape Fear District Youth Officers
	Prayer — Scott Satterfield
	Welcome — Brenda Tyndall
	Response — Riverside Church
	Greeting — Linda Jackson, President
	Business Session
	Chorus Time
	Offering
	Offertory Prayer
	Minutes
	Treasurer's Report
	Memorial Service — Retha Lee
	Break
	Unfinished Business
	Installation of Officers
	Special Music — Host Church
	Message — Teresa Jackson
	Music — Susan Faircloth
	Benediction and Grace

## Western District Auxiliary Convention

Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church  
Goldsboro, North Carolina  
April 7, 1999

Theme: Remembering The Words Of Jesus  
Scripture: "And they remembered his words" (Luke 24:8).

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Hymn                      Wonderful Words of Life  
Devotion — John 14:6                      Bobby Holland  
Welcome                      Kitzie Bass  
President's Remarks                      Bettie Lynch
- 9:50 Hymn                      Standing On The Promises  
Convention Offering  
Reports from our Denominational Ministries  
Youth Report                      Cathy Creech
- 10:40 Memorial Service — John 11:25-26      Iris Pittman  
Business Session
- 11:15 Break
- 11:30 Hymn                      Break Thou the Bread of Life  
Life Membership Award  
Special Music                      Stoney Creek Church  
Convention Message                      Joyce Edmundson  
Installation of Officers
- 12:30 Benediction  
Lunch

## *FWB League Convention to Meet April 17*

The Free Will Baptist League is on the move! Join us as we travel to Aspen Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Fountain, North Carolina for our State Convention on Saturday, April 17, 1999. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and the Convention convenes at 10:00 AM.

This year the League will be traveling to old familiar stops like the Sword Drill and new, exciting places with special entertainment by a guest choir. Interwoven with these stops there will be a layover in John 15:19 for traveling directions to our theme destination, "Out of This World." Pack up and join us for a great day in the Lord, April 17, 1999 at Aspen Grove!

## Attention North Carolina Woman's Auxiliaries

The 1999 session of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention will convene on Thursday, May 13, 1999 at the Pleasant Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC, in the Western District. Each auxiliary should represent with one delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof, plus a registration fee of \$25.00. Please note the increase in the registration fee. In order to save time, we request that you send your registration in advance. This allows the State Treasurer to prepare the cards in advance, and saves the delegates the trouble of having to register at the door.

Please mail your fee before April 25, if possible, to the following address: Mrs. Nadine Crocker, 568 House Road, Kenly, NC 27542.

If you cannot possibly attend, please mail your fee anyway, as the Convention needs your support. We hope, however, to see you there.

Now is the time for you to collect your per capita dues, if you have not already done so. These dues should be collected during the first months of the year, in time to be sent to your District Treasurer before, or in time for, your District Convention. The dues are 40 cents per member per year.

Send these dues to your District Treasurer. She will keep 20 cents and send 20 cents to your State Treasurer. It is necessary that you cooperate in this as these dues provide a part of the funds for the operational expense of your convention. Thank you for your past support. We know that we can continue to count on you.

## *Celebration of Faith*

**Dedication Ceremony for  
Silver Creek Free Will Baptist Church  
new sanctuary and fellowship facility.**

**April 17, 1999 • 3:00 PM**

**Reception to follow the service.**



## Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

### Announcement of Upcoming Events and Dates of Importance

1. The dates for the 1999 Youth Convention are May 14-16. The theme is "Mission Possible," which is derived from the spy stories "Mission Impossible." The idea is, as it says in our theme verse Matthew 19:25-26, that all things are possible with God.
2. The theme for this year's public speaking is "The Loving Touch of Jesus."
3. The first place district winners in all competitions are to display or perform their winning entry at the Convention. Arts and Crafts will be displayed in the convention hall (College Hall at MOC) along with a new activity — scrapbooks. All items for display should be fully set up by 5:00 PM Friday, May 14, and should remain for the duration of the Convention.
4. For the first time, all local youth programs are invited to display a scrapbook of the activities they have done over the past year. The purpose is to encourage all local youth groups to keep an organized and attractive record of their activities and to share those good ideas with others at the Convention. Be sure to start taking lots of good pictures and take notes of each activity.
5. Each district is asked to submit ideas for the theme and T-shirt design, along with the appropriate Scripture verse for Convention 2000. Bring ideas to the Convention registration desk on Friday, May 14, 1999, prior to the start of the opening session. One idea is needed from each district, and a theme and T-shirt for Convention 2000 will be selected and announced at the end of the 1999 Convention. Contact your district youth director if you would like to participate.
6. All youth are encouraged to thank and honor their youth leaders by writing a letter of thanks that explains the reasons their youth leaders deserve to be thanked. The letters are to be displayed at the Convention, and therefore must be mailed to Martha Parsons, 2317 Bayside Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28306, by April 1, 1999.
7. A special conference has been planned for both youth and youth leaders to train for and develop the spiritual aspects of youth leadership. The conference will take place October 1-2 at White Lake, NC. Current plans call for each church to send two YFA youth and one youth leader; however, only 60 positions are available. Look for more information to come after the Convention.
8. This year's Bible Bowl Competition will be held May 1, 1999, at 9:00 AM in Rodger's Chapel on the campus of Mount Olive College. The theme will be the "Loving Touch of Jesus."
9. Young people ages 13 to 19, if you are interested in a leadership position and in preparing for future leadership roles in your church, please see your district youth director.
10. This is a small part of what will happen at the 1999 Youth Convention. If you want a spiritual awakening, be there May 14-16. See your district director for registration information.

## Registration Form Cragmont Women's Conference

June 7-12 and August 2-7  
Speaker Speaker  
TBA Cynthia Wood

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Which Conference Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_.

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here \_\_\_\_\_.

Mail the registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:  
Teresa M. Ball  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530

A balance of \$120 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip will be planned with an approximate cost of \$65. There will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Asheville (\$5.00 each). Please make your plans now to join us for one or both of these conferences.

Remember: The June Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as our ladies. A limited number of private accommodations for couples are available on a first registered, first served basis.

## CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC, is seeking a youth minister. Anyone who is interested in this position should send a resume to Kathryn Farior, 1399 Pikeville-Princeton Road, Pikeville, NC 27863. Resumes must be received by April 1, 1999.

Mr. Ernest Jones is available for pulpit supply or for revivals. He is a licensed minister in good standing in the Eastern Conference. He is also a member in good standing of Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Newport. He may be contacted at 235 Tom Mann Road, Newport, NC 28570, phone 252-223-2701.

Vandora Springs Original Free Will Baptist Church, Garner, NC, is seeking a full-time pastor. Any interested minister may contact Homer McPherson, 436-B Graham Pond Road, Angier, NC 27501, phone 919-894-1228.

Licensed minister Otis Hamm, Jr. is available for pulpit supply work. Mr. Hamm is a member of the Cape Fear Conference, is in good standing, and is currently preparing for enrollment of the MOD program at Mount Olive College in March. Mr. Hamm can be reached at 919-894-1497.

The Rev. Bob Burke is available for pastoral work, revivals, or pulpit supply. He may be contacted at 1196 Jefferson Road, Pinetown, NC 27865, phone 252-927-2041.

# Grand Re-Opening

*Wilson Bible and Bookstore*



**March 2, 1999 — 11:00 AM**  
**2800 B-4 Raleigh Road • Wilson, North Carolina**  
**Between the New Winn Dixie and Kmart**  
**252-243-4982 or 800-875-4175**

## Vacation Bible School Materials Are In: Cook, Augsburg, Gospel Light, Child Evangelism, Concordia

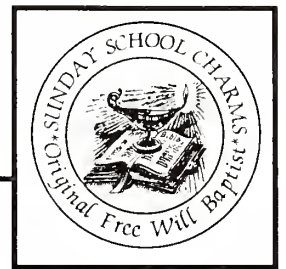


Standard Publishing Kits  
are now available

Bible and Bookstores of  
Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson



# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



## 1999 MACEA Convention

On March 18–20 the Mid-Atlantic Christian Education Association will hold its' twenty-fifth annual Convention. This year the Convention will be held at Ridgecrest Conference Center near Black Mountain, NC. The Mid-Atlantic Christian Education Association (known at MACEA) is a non-denominational association with the purpose of helping Christians prepare themselves to spread the knowledge of Christ through Christian education. During the three-day Convention, over 200 quality workshops will be offered covering many different areas in Christian education. These workshops cover areas from teaching nursery through adults, drama, puppets, music, VBS, children's worship, church growth, workshops for pastors, and much more. The Convention also has inspiring general sessions to bring together Christians of different backgrounds to worship God. The keynote speaker this year will be Dr. E. Glenn Wagner. Dr. Wagner is

currently the pastor of Calvary Church in Charlotte, NC. He is a former Vice President and Board Member of the Promise Keepers and is the author of more than six books. His best known work is *Strategies for a Successful Marriage*, with over 100,000 copies in print.

The Convention also has a wonderful resource center full of exhibits from many Christian book distributors, publishing houses, artists and Christian educators. A person can spend many hours just looking and finding new information and ideas in the resource center. If you are interested in learning how to become a better Sunday school teacher, youth worker, or Christian, this is a Convention that will be well worth your attending. If you would like more information on the MACEA Convention please feel free to contact Mrs. Mary Dudley, Director of the Sunday School Board at 252-746-4963 or Franklin Baggett, Chairman at 252-746-7850.

## Sunday School or Youth Meeting Idea

This year try telling the Holy Week story with a Holy Week Basket. Give each child in your room an Easter basket and then as you talk about the events of the Holy week give them an item pertaining to something that happened that week. Here are some items that can be used:

**Palm leaves** (Matthew 21:6–9): Green candy leaves (cake decorations) for the palm branches used in Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

**Temple cleansing** (Matthew 21:12–13): Broom straw to represent Jesus cleaning the Temple.

**Betrayal of Jesus** (Matthew 26:14–16, 47–56): Small bag of foil-wrapped chocolate coins for the 30 pieces of silver Judas was paid to betray Jesus.

**The Last Supper** (Matthew 26:26–29): A cracker to represent the bread and a grape to represent a cup of wine.

**Denial of Jesus by Peter** (Matthew 26:69–75): A feather to represent the rooster crowing.

**Crown of Thorns** (Matthew 27:27–29): A crown made of brown pipe cleaners.

**Cross** (Matthew 27:30–56): A small cross to represent the Cross that Jesus died on.

**Resurrection** (Matthew 28:1–8): Butterfly stickers or butterfly shaped cookies to symbolize the Resurrection.

**New life** (John 10:10): Foil wrapped eggs or colored boiled eggs to symbolize new life that is found in Christ.

Encourage the children to take their baskets home and tell their families the Holy Week story.



# THE GOLDEN YEARS

*Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens*



“...he who stands firm to the end will be saved,”  
(Mark 13:13 NIV).

## Stay the Course

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

Following a recent strenuous time in our lives, Miss Rose and I went away for a few days of rest and recovery. On our way home, we were discussing some important projects we want to accomplish during the next few years.

“It seems that much of our lives has been spent in responding to one crisis after another,” I commented. With my strength renewed and my spirits uplifted by our mini-vacation, I added that I hoped we could now have a period of time without a breakdown in our health and without being confronted with a series of other major problems.

In her kind and gentle way, Rose responded, “I hope it can be as you say, but we have to be realistic, life has its valleys as well as its peaks, its hard times as well as its good times.”

## The Valleys

There is an old spiritual, “Nobody Knows The Trouble I See,” which expresses the feeling senior citizens often have: “Sometimes I’m up, sometimes I’m down, sometimes I’m almost to the ground.”

With their health restraints increasing and no longer being employed or active in their businesses or professions, and with younger people taking their positions in church and community affairs, it is easy for senior citizens to become resentful or to develop the feeling that they are not needed or appreciated. The death of family members and close friends can add to the feeling that life is closing in on them.

If these feelings develop, it is important that we not let them cause us to drift into the valley of self-pity, for in this valley we can lose our hope, vision, courage and even our desire for a better life. Other people, with even greater problems than ours, have found the strength and fortitude to go forward with their lives.

It is no sin to become discouraged, but we do not have to stay in this valley. The Apostle Paul was a senior citizen when he wrote from prison to his friends at Philippi:

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives

me strength,” (Philippians 4:12–13 NIV).

I believe that faith in the Ultimate Power of the universe can free us from the blindness which threatens to imprison us in our own little world. Standing in the presence of the Eternal One can give us a larger perspective of life and release us from the maddening rush of frivolous activities.

## The Peaks

Even the most tranquil waters can become turbulent; sudden and unexpected demands upon our time can disrupt our carefully planned schedules; we can become overly fatigued and lose our perspective, or problems can arise to which we know no easy solution. When I feel life threatening to close in on me, I like to go out into the fresh air, look up, take deep breaths and breathe into my inner being the Power of the Universe. A walk also helps.

I find it renewing to go to the ocean or the mountains and locate a position where the only thing I see is what God has made. I look at the rhythm and process of nature and find no evidence that God ever gets in a hurry, yet He always gets His work done. With His help, I believe we can control our lives from within rather than be the victim of what is hurled at us from without.

As we move through our senior years, we must be willing to make major decisions — even life-changing decisions — just as we did when we were younger. Look back upon your life and think of the decisions which brought you to where you are. If we simply drift with the tide, it may carry us where we do not want to go. If there are things in life we want yet to do, we must take it in hand to chart our course. The fact that we are still here is because God has given us more time to fulfill His purpose for our lives. Years ago I came across these words of Oliver Wendell Holmes:

“I find the great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving. We must sail, sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it — but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor.”

As a senior citizen, I find these words as meaningful today as they were during my busiest years as president of Mount Olive College. Regardless of our age, success and fulfillment in life require that we “stay the course.”

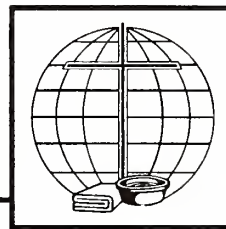
1999 (Vol 4, No. 5) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College. 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.



# Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator

Convention  
of Original  
Free Will Baptists



## 1999 COMING EVENTS

- |          |   |            |  |
|----------|---|------------|--|
| March 3  | Headquarters Worship Service<br>Conference Room<br>Ayden, North Carolina                  | May 6      | Children's Home Board<br>Meeting<br>Middlesex, North Carolina  |
| March 6  | Sunday School Institute<br>Mount Olive College<br>Mount Olive, North Carolina             | May 7      | Cragmont Board Meeting   |
| March 27 | Central District Auxiliary<br>Convention<br>Hull Road OFWB Church<br>Arba, North Carolina | May 12     | Headquarters Worship Service<br>Conference Room<br>Ayden, North Carolina                                   |
| March 27 | Cape Fear District Auxiliary<br>Convention  | May 13     | State Woman's Auxiliary<br>Convention<br>Pleasant Grove OFWB Church<br>Pikeville, North Carolina           |
| March 28 | Foreign Missions Annual<br>Telethon   | May 14-16  | Youth Convention<br>Mount Olive College<br>Mount Olive, North Carolina                                     |
| April 7  | Headquarters Worship Service<br>Conference Room<br>Ayden, North Carolina                  | June 4-5   | Layman's League<br>Spiritual Life Retreat<br>Camp Vandemere, Vandemere,<br>North Carolina                  |
| April 17 | FWB League Convention<br>Aspen Grove OFWB Church<br>Fountain, North Carolina              | June 7     | Central Conference District<br>Layman's League<br>Ormondsville OFWB Church<br>Ormondsville, North Carolina |
| April 25 | Good Shepherd Sunday<br>Home Missions and<br>Evangelism                                   | June 7-12  | June Woman's Conference<br>Cragmont Assembly<br>Black Mountain, North<br>Carolina                          |
| May 3-5  | Annual Ministerial Association<br>Cragmont Assembly<br>Black Mountain, North<br>Carolina  | June 14-19 | Cragmont Youth Conference<br>Cragmont Assembly<br>Black Mountain, North<br>Carolina                        |
| May 6    | NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  |            |  |

# General Administrator Attends National Meeting

In January our General Administrator, the Rev. David C. Hansley, attended the national meeting of Missions America in California. As a member of the Mission America committee, Rev. Hansley represented Original Free Will Baptists. The committee is composed of 67 denominations, over 200 parachurch ministries and more than 50 ministry networks. There are 180,000 churches participating.

On February 15, Brother Hansley, along with the Rev. Al Markuson, Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism, who also attended the national meeting, reported to the Convention's Project

Solution Task Force Committee. The report was in reference to Original Free Will Baptist Churches' participation in *Celebrate Jesus 2000*.

*Celebrate Jesus 2000* is a national evangelistic initiative of Mission America, a coalition of over 300 national Christian leaders who represent approximately 180,000 churches, denominations, parachurch ministries and ministry networks. *Celebrate Jesus 2000* has been endorsed by the *National Association of Evangelicals* as its evangelistic focus for the next three years. It has also been endorsed by the *Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*.

*Celebrate Jesus 2000* is the most massive, inclusive, evangelistic effort in American history! Never before have so many Christians come together on such an endeavor. We pray and believe that this effort is helping to fulfill Jesus' prayer as recorded in John 17, when He prayed for all believers to be one as He and the Father are One "so that the world might know the Father sent the Son."

We find that one of the strengths of *Celebrate Jesus 2000* is that it offers a wonderful rallying point for Christians to form collaborative partnerships for ministry. We believe a strong witness is given to non-Christians when we join together in ministry with other Christians!

Think about it! More and more people, our friends and neighbors and relatives will be *Celebrating Jesus* come the year 2000 because of the faithful prayers and witness of God's people and the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. To God be the glory!

We will, as a denomination, assure the *Celebrating of Jesus* as Lord as we close the second millennium. *Celebrate Jesus 2000* can be the vehicle to help us in casting the vision for this strategic time in our denominational history.

Every Original Free Will Baptist church should make plans to send a large representation to our 1999 Convention to be held on September 14-16, at Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, North Carolina. Ideas and information for participating in *Celebrate Jesus 2000* will be shared.



The General Administrator and Dr. Paul Cedar, CEO, Mission America.



The General Administrator and Dr. Jonathan Graf, editor, "Pray" magazine.



The General Administrator and Dr. Keith Anderson, author, *Rivers of Revival*.







## Some Things Look Even Better Up Close

Take a trip to Ayden, North Carolina, with your youth group, Auxiliary, Layman's League, or senior citizens for a tour of our Headquarters. Hold a meeting of your group in our conference room as an option. Have a representative of our Convention share the work and ministry of our denomination. While visiting, receive materials and information about Mount Olive College, The Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Retirement Ministry, Sunday School Ministry, Church Finance, Home Missions and Evangelism, The Minister's Program, Cragmont Assembly, Foreign Missions, The Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, and the Convention/Headquarters. Then the whole picture gets even better. When you add shopping in the Bible and Bookstore next door, you give your group an opportunity to really get up close for a better look.

We invite our churches to come visit us at the Headquarters because things about our denomination look even better up close. When making plans for a visit and tour, remember to schedule at least two months in advance. You may call (252) 746-4963 or write the General Administrator, PO Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina, 28513.



## 1998-1999 Theme: *A Call To Witnessing*

We would like to encourage every organization of our Convention to continue using our theme for this church year. We also encourage each local church to catch the idea and use the theme for challenging your congregation to be the servants God wants us to be.

To help in this endeavor, here is information gleaned from the booklet published by our Board of Home Missions and Evangelism entitled "Growing In Christ," Chapter 6, Christian Duties under Topic IV: Witnessing (used by permission).

### Topic IV: WITNESSING

Why do Free Will Baptist believe that witnessing is a part of our Christian duty? Briefly, here are seven reasons:

- First of all, Christ commanded us to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).
- Second, because men are lost. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Jesus is the only way whereby individuals can be saved.
- Third, the love of God constrains us. When a person receives Christ, he will want to introduce Him to others.
- Fourth, one witnesses because of the benefits to those who receive Christ. They receive God's power, direction and purpose for their lives.
- Fifth, one should witness because it is a tremendous privilege.
- Sixth, one should witness because witnessing encourages spiritual growth. Witnessing leads us to pray more, to study God's Word, and to depend upon the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
- Seventh, one should witness because the Holy Spirit empowers us to witness (Acts 1:8). In fact, if the Holy Spirit possesses us we cannot help but give a powerful witness.

Do not make witnessing a difficult matter. Tell others by your deeds and by your words what Christ has done for you, and what He means to you. Tell them how they too can experience His love and forgiveness. Invite them to church with you. Make an appointment to take them for a talk with your pastor.



# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Julian of Norwich. *Revelations of Divine Love* in *The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics*. Introduction by Timothy P. Weber. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.



Dr. Pepper Worthington

## Introduction

Julian of Norwich's 15th and 16th revelations pointed to suffering and pain in redemptive terms. During a spiritual relapse, she had a frightening nightmare about the devil hovering over her and choking her. However, her belief in God's motherhood as revealed in Jesus led her to see God as love and grace.

## On Suffering and Pain

Suffering and pain become a part of human reality. Julian experiences her "own wretchedness, sloth, and weariness" (411). She also experiences the absence of God.

To grasp the meaning of suffering and pain she tells her vision: "And in this time I saw a body lying on the earth. Which body was a heavy, fearful sight, without shape or form — a bloated mass of stinking mud. And suddenly, out of this body sprang a full fair creature, a little child fully shaped and formed, swift and full of life and whiter than the lily; it quickly glided up into heaven. The bloated mass of the body betokeneth the great wretchedness of our mortal flesh; and the littleness of the child betokeneth the cleanness and the purity of our soul" (412).

The soul, therefore, longs for God and is wretched until taken into God's full presence.

## Dream of the Fiend

Julian vividly describes her dream of the devil choking her in her sleep: "And in my sleep at the beginning, it seemed as though the fiend set himself at my throat, thrusting his face close to mine — the face of a young man, long and incredibly lean. I never saw its like. Its color was red, like the fire-stone fresh from the kiln, with black spots in it like freckles — dirtier than a tile-stone. His hair was red as rust, cut short in the front, wide side-locks hanging down his cheeks. He looked at me with a malignant grin shewing his white teeth. And the more he grinned, the more ugly he seemed. Body or hands had he none, or true shape; but with his paws he held me by the throat, and would have stopped my breath and killed me; but he might not" (414).

What saved her from the fiend? She turned her eyes upon the cross and thought upon God: "And then our good Lord opened my ghostly eye, and shewed me my soul in the midst of my heart. I saw the soul, so large as it were an endless world, and also as it were a blessed kingdom" (415).

## Trinity

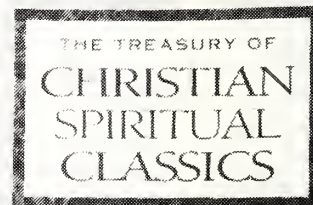
Julian sees the Trinity as a threefold faith: "Our faith is a light, kindly coming from our endless Day that is our Father God. In which light our Mother Christ and our good Lord the Holy Ghost lead us, in the passing life" (430).

Julian also sees three ways in which God should be worshipped: "The first is use of man's kindly reason; the second is the common teaching of Holy Church; the third is the inward gracious working of the Holy Ghost" (428).

## Conclusion

Julian of Norwich offers her revelations of God's love as reading for personal devotion. Her persistent vision of God's love in bringing peace to a world besieged is as comforting to us today as it must have been in the tempestuous, diseased-ridden fourteenth century.

Over and over again she proclaims that God will "make all things well" (368).



AN ANTHOLOGY INCLUDING WORKS OF

Saint Augustine  
Brother Lawrence  
Julian of Norwich  
Thomas à Kempis  
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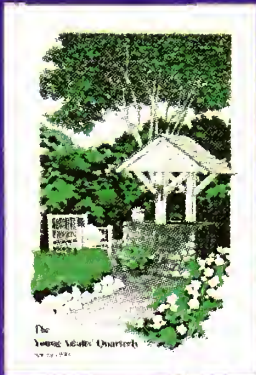
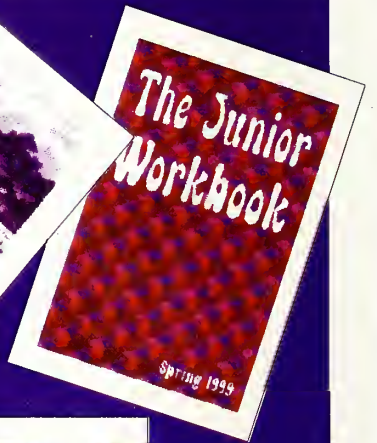
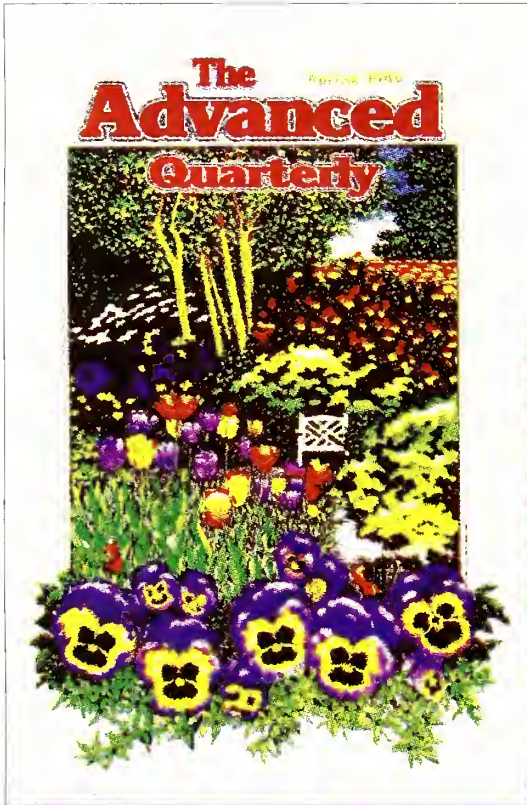
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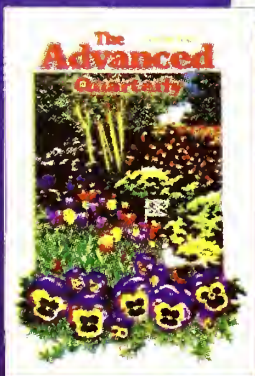
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April 1999



## The Resurrection Hope

During this Easter season, as in past centuries, Christians will assemble in houses of worship to praise the risen Lord. Thousands of voices will blend together in the singing of the great hymns proclaiming the truth and significance of this most important Christian belief: "He Lives." Believers will once again affirm their faith and love in the Saviour Who declared, "...I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..." (John 11:25-26). From pulpits throughout the world ministers will again proclaim the truth of His Resurrection.

The Resurrection of Christ is more than a historical fact. It is true that history records it, but history records many other events. The fact is that the Resurrection of Christ is a personal event; that is, it is a truth which must become a reality to every human soul. If Christ had not risen, then Christianity would be no more than any other religion in the world. If there had been no Resurrection, there would be no victory over the decaying matters of earth. To every believer, this is the blessed hope.

In the days of Christ and in the Early Church, there were those, just as there are today, who did not believe in the Resurrection. The Apostle Paul found such unbelief in the church at Corinth and he sought to correct it: "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God: because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).

When we proclaim His Resurrection, we are also proclaiming the believer's bodily resurrection. *The Moody Handbook of Theology* states: "...The resurrection hope is taught in both the Old and New Testaments and is foundational to the Christian faith..." (page 376). The author then cites the words of Paul

in 1 Corinthians 15; namely, if Christ be not raised, "...faith is useless, and the sin problem remains unsolved..." (page 377).

Original Free Will Baptist doctrines are set forth in what we call "Articles of Faith." An article of faith, according to *The American Heritage College Dictionary*, is "a very basic belief not to be doubted." It is these Articles of Faith that give us our distinctiveness, or uniqueness. As an Original Free Will Baptist for most of my life, and being an ordained minister for almost forty-seven years, I have never had any problems or doubts about what we believe. I do not look at our Articles of Faith with skepticism, or doubt, for they are based upon God's Word. We accept and believe the words of Article 2 concerning Christ "...who was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended into Heaven from whence we look for him the second time, in the clouds of Heaven at the last day to judge both the living and the dead." I have no problem with Article 19, "The Doctrine of the Resurrection," which states: "We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of all people, each in its own order; the Christian to eternal life and the non-Christian to eternal damnation."

Christianity is not Christianity without adherence to certain basic beliefs. Free Will Baptists have long recognized the necessity for such statements of belief, and over the years there have been several revisions. Throughout these revisions and changes, however, we have recognized the importance of a set of rules, or guidelines. For example, the Preface to the 1955 revision of what was then entitled, "Statement of Faith and Discipline for Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina," began as follows: "Throughout the ages it has been an accepted fact that, to govern people working under one great banner, there must be an established set of rules,..."

So we have them — our Articles of Faith. They are statements of what we believe; however, they are not extended discourses. It is up to each Original Free Will Baptist to study them, and to learn the truths contained in each of them. In doing so, we will become grounded in our faith. Thus, during this Easter season we have another opportunity to reaffirm our Resurrection hope.



C. H. Sherman



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## NEXT MONTH

*May is  
Children's  
Home  
Month*

*April is  
Home Missions  
and Evangelism  
Month*

## Where is the thirst?

Frank R. Harrison

Campus Minister, Mount Olive College

Who has looked at the church and across America and not seen the need for a heaven-sent revival of divine proportions? We live in a time when we as the church, the "people of God," desperately need a divine touch from God, a divine visitation of the Holy Spirit that will awaken the church and call the church back to its dynamic existence as revealed in the Book of Acts. There we see a people so possessed by the divine energy and presence of God that they were willing to challenge the pagan foundations of the Roman Empire and transform a pagan world by the power of a living Christ in their midst.

Isaiah speaks of the time when the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh, and all who thirst will be satisfied. Surely, today, we need to look to God for that promise to be renewed and fulfilled — to seek His face and thirst after His righteousness and put away those things that separate us from God and that prevent revival in our midst. Can one doubt that revival is but a partial fulfillment of Biblical prophecy? Does not God's Word tell us about God's desire to visit His people and pour out His Spirit upon them? "Yes" is the answer to these questions!

We are living in a world and culture that is becoming more

*For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel. Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God (Isaiah 44:3-6).*

secular, more "antichurch," a culture that is permeated by values no longer necessarily friendly to the church and its New Testament demands of discipleship. We are living in a generation that is fragmented by the work of the enemy and one that is seeking to satisfy the hunger of the soul with temporal bread of an anti-God culture. We are in a generation where hearts are open and empty and will be filled with the values and beliefs of the New Age religion and various permeated value

system of man-made theologies that deny Biblical faith and the Biblical foundation of Christianity! Surely, ours is a generation that needs for God to come down!

Dr. Robert Coleman, in his book *The Coming World Revival* points us in a direction of hope as we seek the way of revival: "We go forth with confidence that someday the harvest will be gathered from the end of the earth. This promise certainly accentuates the possibility of a mighty cosmic revival before the end of the age. It is possible to discern an outline of a future movement or revival that will make anything seen thus far pale by comparison:

- Universal outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- Strange demonstrations of power
- Unprecedented trouble
- Cleansing of the church
- Tremendous ingathering of souls
- United powerful praying."

The Bible tells us that God will pour out His Spirit on His people, and many men and women of God believe that a great world-wide revival is imminent, even at our doorstep.

We read about the promise of revival in the Word of God, and our faith in that promise can be further strengthened by remembering what



God has done in past revivals. God has no limitations, and no great move of His Spirit to bring revival is ever the same; only the results are always the same — that is to renew His people, to awaken them from spiritual slumber, and empower them with His vision, power, and purpose as He has declared to all the world in the Cross of Jesus Christ, that lost souls may come to that Fountain of Life, “drawn from Immanuel’s veins, and sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.”

With that divine visitation of a heaven-sent revival of the Holy Spirit who again walks among His precious candlesticks, the church will have the scales of lukewarmness and dead traditionalism that is binding the body of Christ removed from her heart and eyes, thereby empowering the church to be culture-changing and devil-confronting church that it is called to be. We need revival, a touch and a cleansing from Almighty God, if our nation is going to turn around and move toward the Cross to find mercy and forgiveness. It is a time for a rending, a time for a tearing open of cold hearts, a time for an outpouring of the refreshing presence of God. It is time for Biblical revival. Let us hear God’s Word using the words of Isaiah, the prophet. “For I will pour water on the thirsty ground and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on thine offspring.”

How we need that great move of the Holy Spirit who is always the author and

power behind any revival of Biblical dimensions. What truth there is in the words of George Barna who writes in his book, *The Second Coming of the Church*: “America is at a turning point in history. The decisions we make in the next few years regarding who we are and the values we stand for will seal the moral and spiritual fate of America for decades to come. The decadence and darkness of our nation are more profound than since the founding of this nation more than two centuries ago. The only power that can cleanse and restore this nation is the power of Christ. And the primary way in which that power is to be manifested is by Christ’s followers serving God and humanity by being the Church — that is, the true representation of Jesus Christ. Unless a radical solution for the revival of the Christian Church in the United States is adopted and implemented soon, the spiritual hunger of Americans will either go unmet or be satisfied by the other faith groups. I’ve concluded that within the next few years, America will experience one of two outcomes — either massive spiritual revival or total moral anarchy. As a committed Christian, I am urgently praying for revival.”

May we join our hearts and prayers together with millions of God’s people around the world in holy anticipation that God will and is about to fulfill His glorious word: Revival is on its way — the thirsty heart is ready!

*We need revival, a touch and a cleansing from Almighty God, if our nation is going to turn around and move toward the Cross to find mercy and forgiveness.*

# *Which of the three Herods?*

*by Edmundo G. Gonzalez, Pastor of First FWB Church, Warsaw, NC*

*None of the Biblical Herods can be understood without a knowledge of the rise of Rome to power. The Prophet Daniel had prophesied long before of this great kingdom. As he stood before the king Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel pointed out the various kingdoms that would arise. The fourth kingdom is represented by iron. This kingdom would break all things into pieces. It represented the Roman Empire (see Daniel 2).*

Manipulation, coercion and deceit was Rome’s strategy for conquest. When Judea had won its liberty from Syria, Rome had already begun to conquer and domineer the earth. Seventy percent of the Jewish people of the world were already living in those

nations conquered by Rome. The proud Jewish generation that had successfully fought and defeated the Syrian armies of Antiochus Epiphanes was ending. They were dying out. Simon Maccabeus, a descendant of the Hasmonean Dynasty was killed in

135 BC and replaced by his son, John Hyrcanus, placing Judea as a friend of Rome. Had Hyrcanus been able to foretell the future, he could have known that Roman legions would march into Jerusalem, that Pompey would violate the Holy of Holies and that ultimately the temple would be destroyed.

The reign of Hyrcanus I was plagued with a war to recapture territory that had once been part of Israel during the reigns of David and Solomon before the ancient kingdom had been divided. This was John Hyrcanus' goal. To realize his goal, Hyrcanus had to control the trade routes. He probably thought of himself as a second Joshua, commissioned to conquer the land and to destroy the Canaanites. He, too, was an oppressor of the peoples he conquered and most particularly Idumea and Samaria.

Since one of the main trade routes passed through Idumea, he warred against them until he had subdued the Idumeans and compelled them to convert to Judaism and be circumcised. This terrible act was to have horrific consequences, for among the Idumeans "converted" to Judaism was the grandfather of Herod the Great. When Hyrcanus forcibly circumcised Herod's grandfather, he gave legitimacy to Herod's claim as king of the Jews. Herod was the greatest oppressor in Jewish history.

When John Hyrcanus died, there followed a succession of rulers until Artistobulus II, the son of Salome Alexandra. This young ruler had an enemy who at this point intervened in the history of Israel. He was the governor of Idumea (Edom), his name was Antipater, the father of Herod the Great. Antipater schemed a movement among powerful Jews, and with Aretas III, a Nabatean Arabian ruler, to support a revolt against Artistobulus II and install his brother, Hyrcanus II, as king. Antipater's traitorous involvement would not end with this deed. He planned, by lies and innuendoes, to

crush Artistobulus by using the power of Rome. Not long after Artistobulus was poisoned, Antipater and the Roman general Pompey had Alexander, the son of Artistobulus, executed by Q. Coecilius Metellus Scipio, Pompey's father-in-law and proconsul of Syria. Antipater had charged Alexander with joining forces with his father against Rome, and therefore worthy of death. Antipater made possible Rome's tightening grip on Judea by participating in the struggle between Julius Caesar and Pompey. These two Romans were locked in battle in Central Greece. The battle was won by Julius Caesar and continued on to Egypt to conquer the Middle East. Antipater had allied himself to Pompey and now he feared for his life. Antipater, however, had learned his lessons well from the Romans and their methods of betrayal. He made a shrewd move: Antipater supplied three-thousand Jewish soldiers to aid Julius Caesar, helping him win a decisive victory.

Soon after the war was over, Antipater appeared before Caesar to claim his reward. He wanted the throne of Judea for himself. It did not take long for Caesar to decide. The wily emperor reasoned that if he put a non-Jew in control of Judea, Rome would have a tighter grip over its territory and its people. To achieve this, Caesar gave Antipater unlimited power and authority.

Antipater had married a beautiful Arabian woman, Cypros. They had four sons and a daughter. Three of them, Phasael, Herod (he would become Herod the Great), and Salome would bring Judea under final control of Rome. Jerusalem was in need of a governor and so Phasael was appointed to that city by his father, Antipater. He also appointed his twenty-year old son Herod to be governor of Galilee. But the people there refused to accept the iron fist of Rome. A Galilean, Ezekius, gathered a group of dissidents and revolted. Herod, in order to please Rome, arrested many of the young

dissidents; along with Ezekius, and without a trial executed them. This action demonstrated his brutal nature and would be characteristic of Herod throughout his reign. In outrage, the leaders and the people sought a way to bring Herod to account for this atrocity. Jewish law could have found Herod guilty by the Sanhedrin and sentenced to death. However, Rome had stripped all authority from the Jewish courts. Their only power was to make recommendations. Finally, a special court was called together and among some of the prominent Jews who attended were Shammai and Avtalyon, who were expert teachers of the Torah and members of the highest Jewish court — the Sanhedrin. A summons was issued for Herod to appear, but Antipater warned his son not to go to Jerusalem unarmed. Herod, knowing he was guilty, summoned an armed escort to guide and protect him. He also brought along a letter from the governor of Syria, Sextus Caesar, shifting responsibility to the king of Judea for Herod's life. Herod knew that the Sanhedrin feared the might of Rome, thus they would release him.

All who ever appeared before the court on criminal charges were always clothed in black. Herod stood before the Sanhedrin wearing purple: his royal garments. His hair was cropped in the grand style of the Hellenists and his bodyguards surrounded him. This display of arrogance on the part of Herod terrified the Sanhedrin. The entire court remained silent. Finally, Shammai stood and said that never before had a case of this magnitude been brought before the court. If a sentence of condemnation were to be pronounced against Herod, he would slay them all and he himself escape death. He continued, "However, take you notice, that God is great and that this very man, whom you are going to absolve and dismiss, will one day punish both you and your king (Hyrcanus) himself also." (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 14.9.4.)



The stirring words of Shammai rallied the court to action. They were about to vote a sentence of death upon Herod, but their leader, Hyrcanus, gave order that the court adjourn and postponed its verdict until the next day. Herod left the court as arrogantly as he had entered. Fearing Herod, the Sanhedrin did not convene again and a verdict never issued. Herod wanted to avenge himself and slay all the members of the Sanhedrin, but his father, Antipater, calmed him down.

Despite Herod's domestic tragedies and private crimes, he proved himself to be an able ruler. He attempted to conciliate the Jews by building the temple on a grander scale. The temple grounds were enlarged twice its former area, carved masonry embellished the temple complex (Mark 13:1). The construction of Herod's temple began in 20 BC and completed in AD 63. The Jews allowed Herod to rebuild the temple, believing that the Messiah would come and the Messianic age would begin. This was the temple that Jesus visited and where He taught and where He declared Himself to be the Messiah (John 10:22-39). And this was the Herod, who having heard of the birth of the "king of the Jews" issued command that all the male children in Bethlehem two years old and under be killed (Matthew 2:16).

Herod, who wanted to be king of the Jews, died in the city of Jericho in the spring of 4 BC, only five days after he had ordered his own son Antipater's execution. Again Herod changed his will after the execution. In this last will he made Archelaus king; inheriting Samaria, Judea, and Idumea. Caesar Augustus, however, did not allow Archelaus to be called

king, but permitted him the title of ethnarch which had less prestige than that of king. At the very beginning of his reign, Archelaus acquired a bad reputation. When his father, Herod the Great died, a rebellion broke out in Jerusalem during the Passover season and Archelaus used armed forces to quell the riot, killing some three-thousand persons. The son had inherited the same characteristic traits of his father — a penchant for killing. To save the child Jesus, Joseph and Mary had fled to Egypt to escape Herod the Great's edict. Again, Joseph heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea and was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he took Mary and the child to the district of Galilee (Matthew 2:22).

Another son of Herod the Great, Herod Antipas (simply called Herod in the New Testament), ruled Galilee and Perea as tetrarch. Jesus spent most of His life within the area ruled by Herod Antipas. Antipas figures most prominently in the gospels. He married a daughter of Aretas III, king of the Nabateans of Arabia, the same Aretas who had conspired with Antipater (Herod Antipas' grandfather) against Artistobulus the second. When Antipas was visiting his half-brother, Herod Philip, he fell in love with his host's wife, Herodias. She was a daughter of Artistobulus and granddaughter of the hated Herod the Great. Antipas arranged to divorce his wife and married Herodias. John the Baptist fearlessly rebuked Herod Antipas for his unlawful marriage (Luke 3:19). Herodias was angry with John for his condemnation of the unlawful marriage. She was the prime mover in John's death, contriving through Salome, her daughter, to have John

beheaded. Herod Antipas also plotted the death of Jesus (Luke 13:31). Jesus saw through the whole scheme and so He exclaimed, "Go tell that fox." Antipas happened to be in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' trial and crucifixion. Since Jesus was from Galilee, He came under the jurisdiction of Antipas. And so Pontus Pilate sent Jesus to Herod Antipas for adjudication (Luke 23:6-12).

Every good wife wants to see her husband succeed. Herodias was no different. At her insistence, Herod Antipas went to Rome seeking promotion to a higher rank. He was a tetrarch but sought to be a king. Instead of being promoted, he was banished to Gaul. Another Herod, Agripa I, son of Artistobulus and grandson of Herod the Great, had sent letters to the Roman Emperor Caligula accusing Antipas of collusion with the Parthians, firmly established enemies of Rome. Herod Antipas' domain was given to Herod Agripa I. Two years later, Emperor Claudius gave Judea and Samaria to Agripa. He was now king of all Palestine.

Agripa caused consternation among some of the leaders of the Early Church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword and had Peter arrested (see Acts 12:1-3). Herod died not long afterwards. He was a man of overwhelming pride. Some thought his death was punishment for his pride (Acts 12:21-23).

The story of the Herodian Dynasty continues. But the question of the title of our story of the three Herods has been answered.

#### Sources:

Daniel Fuchs; Harold A. Sevener, *From Bondage to Freedom — A Journey of Jewish History from the Babylonian Captivity to the Coming of the Messiah*, Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., Neptune, NJ. 1995.

Metzger, Bruce M. *The New Testament its background, growth, and content*; Abingdon Nashville, TN. 1965.

Harold A. Sevener, *God's Man, Daniel in Babylon — The Visions and Prophecies of Daniel*, Chosen Peoples Ministries, Charlotte, NC. 1994.

# The Resurrection Reaction

by the Rev. Stephen Prescott, Pastor  
Marlboro Original Free Will Baptist Church, Farmville, NC

It was Satan's day in the sun! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who only days earlier had entered into Jerusalem like a king, had been crucified; his beaten and bruised body hung to die on a cross. The people, whose shouts of joy had welcomed Jesus into the city, were no longer bowing at His feet. Words of anger and mocking, "Crucify him!", and the spittle that covered Jesus' body were evidence enough of the change. The chief priests and other Pharisees, who had joined with the people in mocking Jesus, had finished congratulating one another on removing the young teacher who had threatened to seize their power. Pontius Pilate, who had the opportunity to release the man he knew had done no wrong, had washed his hands of the matter and breathed a sigh of relief because the rebellious crowd he was so afraid of was now pacified with the death of this "King of the Jews."

What of His disciples? Where were those who had walked with Jesus during His ministry? Where were the ones Jesus had spent *three years* training? One had betrayed Him, one had denied Him, and nine others were no where to be found. In fact, only one — the one whom Jesus loved — was there at His death.

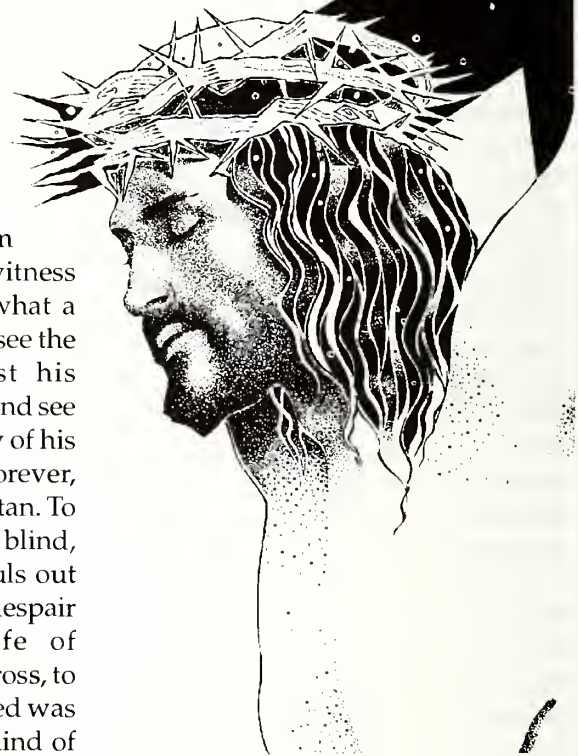
And what about God, His Father? What had He done to stop it! Nothing! Nothing when Jesus was falsely accused; nothing when the people chose Barabbas over His Son; nothing when the soldiers placed a crown of thorns on His head; nothing when they pounded the nails into His hands and feet; nothing when the spear pierced His side; nothing to console the women who knelt by the cross; nothing to aid in Mary's suffering as she wept over her son; nothing to stop the horrible

crucifixion of Jesus Christ, His only Son. Without a doubt, Satan knew his victory over God was complete! But then to see them lay Jesus in the grave, and to witness the burial of his adversary: what a way to add insult to injury! To see the only human ever to resist his temptations placed in a tomb, and see the man who had cast so many of his demons out of people gone forever, brought great satisfaction to Satan. To see the man who had lifted the blind, deaf, mute, and paralysed souls out of the sorrowful and sin-filled despair of self-pity to a new life of forgiveness, dying upon the Cross, to see Jesus Christ dead and buried was a day to end all days in the mind of Satan.

Yet, Satan could not revel in the moment forever; preparations had to be made. With Jesus out of the way and God's apparent loss of interest, he had to determine the best and quickest plan to destroy *all* of humanity. Satan assembled his most devious demons together and they began to plan their attack. After working for what seemed to be days, the creation of a truly diabolical scheme was complete. It was time to unleash the destruction onto the world.

Satan takes his position before his entire legion of demons, preparing to lay out his truly evil plot. As he begins to speak, a lone demon bursts into the room, shouting at the top of his lungs. "He's not there! He's gone!", are the words that come from his mouth! Angered the interruption, Satan summons the demons to explain his outburst.

But when asked, the only thing the demon can say is, "He's not there! He's gone!"



Not getting anywhere by simply asking, Satan grabs the hysterical demon and begins to shake him. "What are you talking about? Who's not there?" he yells.

"Jesus," the demon replies, "Jesus is not in the tomb! He's gone! He has risen!"

"What?" the devil responds. "That's impossible! I saw Him die myself! I heard Him say, 'It is finished!' I saw Him breathe his last breath! I saw Him placed in the tomb! I saw them roll the stone in front of the door! I saw Jesus dead!"

The demon responds, "I know, I was there, too! I saw Him dead! But I know what I saw today! Jesus is not in the tomb! Jesus is alive!"

"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him..." (Revelation 19:6-7).



# Camp Vandemere

## Our Family Enrichment Center

"O Send out thy light and thy truth."  
Psalm 43:3



## A Home Away from Home

by Lexa Upton

Since my parents were pastoring Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church at Cash Corner, NC, I was involved with Camp Vandemere from the time it was just a dream until it became a reality. Since our church has supported it from the very first, and since I have been down every fall for a weekend spiritual retreat since its inception, it has a very special place in my heart.

When I walk into the lobby and see the large picture of a lighthouse, I think about how we, as Christians, are to radiate our light to those living in the darkness of sin. The training that our young people get when they go down there for a week of camp in the summer, prepares them spiritually for allowing their light to "...so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

I often think about one of the first weekends we were there. Several of the adults awoke very early and were sitting on the front porch of the Gillikin House when the first beautiful rays of the sun began rising over the Bay River. One of our group remarked that they could

not understand how anyone could see the sun rising and ever question whether there was a God.

During my time there as a counselor, I met many wonderful children, and also a few that were difficult to deal with. We had children who were on drugs to help them control their behavior, children who had been rejected from other camps because of behavior problems, and children who had come from broken homes or abusive homes and needed a lot of extra love and understanding. One such little boy fought continuously one week, and when Edith Cayton and I sat him down one afternoon to talk with him about this, he cried convulsively and told us that he didn't know any other way to be, that his father had beat on his mother for as long as he could remember. We were heartbroken! The rest of the week we tried very hard to show him extra love and attention, and to try and show him the Christian way to handle things. A few years later, we heard that he had died very tragically, and we were once again very hurt.

After all the years of attending

every fall for spiritual retreat, and two summers as a counselor, I know first hand the real importance of having Camp Vandemere. It is more accessible for a lot of our young people, and it is more affordable than some of the other summer camps. I feel that if we had some way of knowing how many young lives have been saved there over the years we would realize that it has been worth all that the churches in the Eastern Conference have ever put into it — and then some! We cannot measure the worth of salvation to even one life by the cost of buying and maintaining this facility. I feel, and have always felt, that this property was meant to be a shining light. Just as a lighthouse sends out its rays to warn boaters of harm, we are to send out God's light to young people — and adults — to warn them of the power of darkness if they don't yield their lives to His saving grace.

Please, if you have never been to Camp Vandemere, make it a point to visit the camp and find out what it has to offer you and your church. And please keep the camp in your prayers and in your church budget!

**CAMP VANDEMERE'S  
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

April 24	Clean-up Day
May 21-23	Youth Mission Retreat Ray and Ginny Conner, Directors 167 Holly Springs Road Newport, NC 28570 252-223-4750
May 31-June 4	Open
June 4-5	Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat
June 7-11	Ralph Sumner, Director 571 Sumner Road Pink Hill, NC 28572 910-298-5885
June 14-18	Stanley Buck, Director 3200 Western Blvd. Tarboro, NC 27886 252-823-3964
June 21-25	Women's Week Audrey Quinn, Director 461 Wintergreen Road Cove City, NC 28523 252-638-6406
June 28-June 2	Jason Modlin, Director 634 Henderson Street Mount Olive, NC 28365 919-658-7170
July 5-9	Open
July 12-16	Joe Ratcliff, Director 6280 US Hwy 17-N Vanceboro, NC 28586 252-244-0407
July 19-23	Eva Mae Clark, Director 465 Half Moon Road New Bern, NC 28560 252-637-5346
July 26-30	Tim Heath, Director 601 Turkey Point Road Sneads Ferry, NC 28460 910-327-2850
August 7	All Day Gospel Sing

**Layman's League  
Spiritual Life Retreat**

Camp Vandemere, NC  
June 4-5, 1999

**Registration For  
SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT**

Each person planning to attend the retreat is requested to complete and return this form by May 1, 1999.

**Make checks for overnight accommodations payable to the State Layman's League (\$5.00).**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check appropriate blanks)

I plan to attend the retreat at Camp Vandemere on June 5, 1999.

I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere Friday night, June 4, 1999.

**Please return this form to:**

Mr. Robert Tripp  
305 Piney Neck Road  
Vanceboro, NC 27586

**Layman's League Dates**

April 1	Executive Board and Promotional Committee, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7:00
May 7	State Layman's League, Time and Place TBA. If you would like to host, contact Elmer Harrell (747-2894)
May 17	Eastern Conference Layman's League, Memorial FWB Church, 7:00
June 7	Central Conference Layman's League, Ormondsville FWB Church, 7:00 Supper, 7:45 Business
June 4-5	Spiritual Life Retreat, Camp Vandemere



# *Good Shepherd Sunday*

*April 25, 1999*

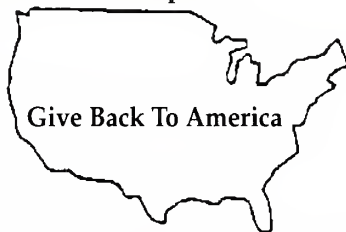


*Pray  
and Give for  
Home Missions  
and Evangelism*

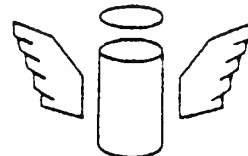
On this Good Shepherd Sunday, in addition to your Prayer and Financial Support, we call upon every Original Free Will Baptist to help end the Disaster of "Hunger" in our church communities. To participate in this ministry of I Can 1 Can:

- Encourage each person to bring 1 can of food or nonperishable item on Good Shepherd Sunday.
- Receive the can or nonperishable item at your church and have prayer.
- Record the number of items received and call or send this information to Home Missions and Evangelism.
- Give items collected to your local food collection agency or add to your church food pantry.

Original Free Will Baptist



Through A Disaster Relief Ministry



**CANNING  
HUNGER**

*April is Home Missions and Evangelism Month*



*Home Missions and  
Evangelism is People  
Praying, Caring, and Sharing in*



*Project Kid's Kare*



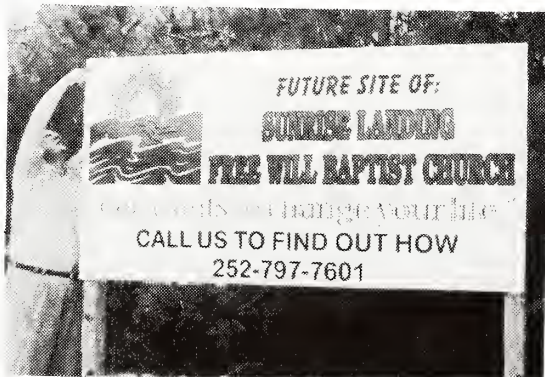
*Youth Choir Charity Mission-Church,  
Whiteville, NC*



*Ethnic Missions H'mong VBS  
Banning, CA.*



*Covenant of the Deaf  
OFWB Mission-Church,  
Hope Mills, NC*



*Director-Pastor, Keith Pelletier puts finishing  
touches on their new sign at Point Harbor's  
Sunrise Landing.*



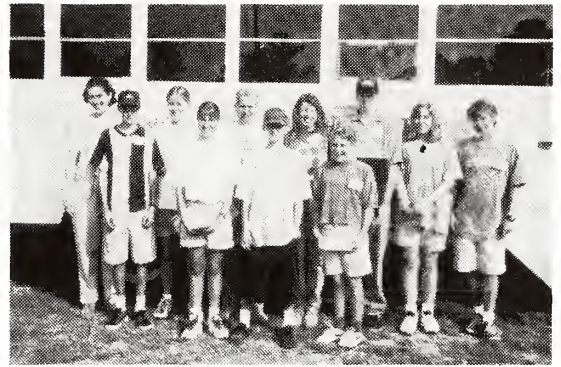
*Mobile Ministry  
Rev. Joe Crumpler, Coordinator*





*Harvest Covenant Program  
Beaufort FWB Church*

*Hillside Original Free Will Baptist Church,  
Pastor Eldon Brock, just moved  
to church status, (pictured left).*



*Harvest Action Team  
From Holly Springs FWB Church conducting  
a community survey in Beaufort, NC*



*Celebrate Jesus 2000 is a national evangelistic initiative of Mission America, a coalition of over 300 national Christian leaders who represent approximately 160,000 churches, denominations, parachurch ministries and ministry networks. Celebrate Jesus 2000 has been endorsed by the National Association of Evangelicals as its evangelistic focus for the next three years. It has been endorsed by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.*

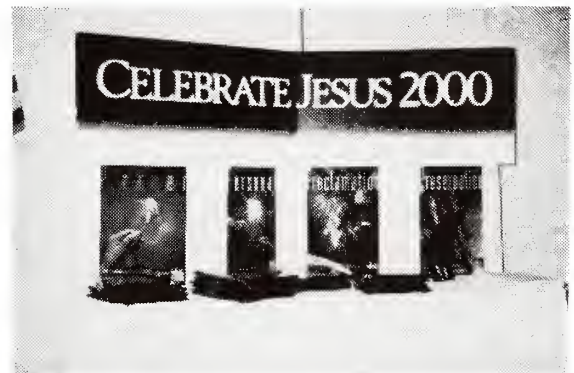
*Celebrate Jesus 2000 is the most massive, inclusive, evangelistic effort in American history! Never before have so many Christians come together on such an endeavor. We pray and believe that this effort is helping to fulfill Jesus' prayer as recorded in John 17, when He prayed for all believers to be one as He and the Father are One "so that the world might know the Father sent the Son."*

*We find that one of the strengths of Celebrate Jesus 2000 is that it offers a wonderful rallying point for Christians to form collaborative partnerships for ministry. We believe a strong witness is given to non-Christians when we join together in ministry with other Christians!*

*Think about it! More and more people, our friends and neighbors and relatives will be Celebrating Jesus come the year 2000 because of the faithful prayers and witness of God's people and the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. To God be the glory!*

*We will, as a denomination, assure the Celebrating of Jesus as Lord as we close the second millennium. Celebrate Jesus 2000 can be the vehicle to help us in casting the vision for this strategic time in our denominational history.*

*For more information, please contact Home Missions and Evangelism at (252) 746-4963, or write PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.*





**S — Stop    T — Think    O — Observe    P — Pray**

*Our Special Day*



*Dr. Bobby Taylor with an inspiring message.*

In observance of Prayer Day, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home began Thursday, February 25, 1999 with worship and prayer in Memorial Chapel Church at 9:30 AM. The Rev. Lester Duncan shared an inspiring opening prayer touching each of us. Mrs. Joyce Batchelor, State Cottage, was kind enough to provide us with a beautiful song. Dr. Bobby Taylor, President/CEO, followed with a special and inspiring message about prayer. Mr. Don Batchelor honored us with a compassionate closing prayer, reminding all to remember each other and especially the children. In closing, we gathered for fellowship and refreshments. The chill of the day was forgotten, thanks to the warmth of the special people gathered inside. We concluded the day with a 4:00

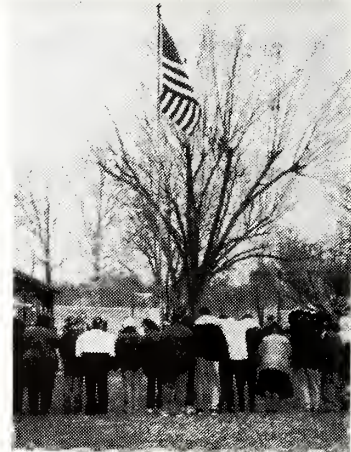


*A time of silence and thought. Pray with and for others, pictured above and below.*



*Rev. Lester Duncan with a special word of thought.*

PM gathering of staff and children of the home. As we all held hands around the flag pole, this indeed was a special time of prayer. Due to the success and positive feedback from staff, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home has decided to have quarterly worship services for the staff.



**Remember:  
Our Children of Tomorrow  
May is Children's Home Month  
"Change for Children '99"**

*Family Prepares Girls Emergency Shelter*

On February 20, 1999, the Penny family visited Genesis House to furnish and decorate three bedrooms and a bath. The James Penny family of Jamestown, including wife, Judy, son, Josh and daughters Lillie and Jennifer, all pitched in to help prepare the emergency shelter for occupancy. Josh and Lillie helped pick out the furnishings as a school project. Their mother, Judy, home schools them. Each bedroom was completed with sheets, comforters, pillows, pictures, and accessories. The family persuaded daughter Jennifer to join them, so she completely decorated the hall bath. Mr. and Mrs. Tim Penny, of Angier, pledged a financial contribution to pay for furniture and furnishings for two children's bedrooms. Their son Paul and daughter Samantha visited the emergency shelter along with grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Lemay Turner, of Clayton. The families decided to help with the needs of the shelter in honor of their mother and grandmother Mrs. Mildred Turner (Mildred Johnson-Alumni 1938) that grew up at the home. Mrs. Turner was truly



*Lemay and Mildred Turner with grandchildren Josh and Lily Penny.*



humbled and honored to know her family had labored to help the Children's Home. Mr. and Mrs. Lemay Turner decided to help make Genesis House complete so they offered a financial contribution to help furnish the last bedroom and bath. The Children's Home is very grateful to this family for helping us meet our needs and reach out to children. Genesis House can serve up to six girls between the ages of 0-18 years of age.



*Lemay and Mildred Turner with granddaughter Jennifer Penny.*



*Lemay and Mildred Turner again with granddaughter Jennifer*



*Lemay and Mildred Turner with grandchildren Paul and Samantha Penny.*

## *Mount Olive College Sets Date for Next Church Ministries Session*

Mount Olive College offers a Church Ministries program of study at its locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, and Wilmington. The next session begins on Monday, April 12, 1999, at 6:00 PM, at the Mount Olive campus. Currently, 18 people have shown interest in this session. The program is also offered at the New Bern and Wilmington locations, with new sessions to be announced.

The 60-week program was developed for non-traditional students preparing for Christian Ministry or lay leadership roles in their churches. Classes meet one night a week for 4 hours. Dr. David Hines and the Rev. Tyanna Day, professors of religion at Mount Olive College, designed the program, which consists of 12 courses offered in an accelerated format.

Minimum requirements for entry into the program are two college-level courses in English composition and two college-level courses in Religion (Old and New Testament).

Students completing the program will have 38 credit hours in the Church Ministries major. Students who have earned 60 or more semester hours from accredited colleges may be able to complete their bachelor's degree through this program.

For additional information, contact Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions at 1-800-653-0854 or 919-658-2502.

## *Programs for Non-Traditional Students*

Mount Olive College offers accelerated programs of study for individuals interested in completing their baccalaureate degrees in business administration and criminal justice. Entrance to these programs requires 60 semester hours of credit from accredited colleges and satisfactory completion of a writing sample. Both programs are offered in accelerated formats, with classes meeting one evening or day per week, for 4 hours per session.

The Management and Organizational Development (MOD) program, which enables students to receive 38 semester hours of credit toward the business major, is a 55-week program. Students entering the Criminal Justice for Professionals (CJP) program, which is a 57-week program, must also have evidence of employment in field or in-service training or a minimum of 6 semester hours in field. Both programs provide portfolio options of up to 30 semester credit hours.

Upcoming enrollment for the MOD and CJP programs are occurring in the months of April, May and June 1999 in Mount Olive, New Bern, Wilmington, and at the Triangle. For specific enrollment dates call 1-800-653-0854 or 919-658-2502 and ask for Dr. Barbara Kornegay, Vice President for Enrollment.



## *Barrow Professor Delivers Ninth Annual Vivian Harrison Memorial Lecture*

Dr. Lloyd R. Bailey, the newly appointed Barrow Professor of Biblical Studies at Mount Olive College, presented the ninth annual Harrison Lecture to a gathered group of approximately 75 persons on Tuesday, February 23, 1999, in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center at the College. Addressing the theme, "The Prophet Speaks Today," Bailey first addressed the question "What *was* a prophet?" and then turned his attention to the question "What *is* a prophet?"

In the opening lecture, Bailey noted how the contemporary notion of a prophet has more to do with definitions from Webster's than from the use of the terms in the Bible. He illustrated by drawing attention to "Prophecy Conferences and Y2K." The notion that Israel's prophets were seeking to predict the issues and events of Y2K is far removed from the actual preaching of these messengers. The Hebrew prophets were the proclaimers of God's Word — a message that impacted the hearers right where they lived. The prophet is an individual of courage, who fears only God, who seeks a world with God's Word as our moral and spiritual center.

During the chapel worship service, Bailey captured the attention of both the college students and those attending the lectures with his opening, "Hello, I am Lloyd, and I am a

Christian." After this introduction, Bailey noted that historically synagogue and church has provided a moral center — a norm for behavior — based upon Holy Scripture. He continued by observing how this moral center has been forgotten in our culture, leading to a behavioral free-for-all. Meaning for life is not found in a land of "do as you please." Life, Bailey affirmed, is found in devotion and obedience to God.

Traditionally, one of the highlights of the Harrison Lecture has been the question and answer period during the luncheon. This proved to be especially true during this session as Bailey responded to questions about the Bible and his vision for Biblical studies at Mount Olive College. One attendee who was aware of Dr. Bailey's distinguished teaching career at Union Seminary in New York and at the Duke Divinity School asked him why he had chosen to join the Mount Olive College faculty. His response drew applause from the crowd, "I know of only a half dozen or so schools where the Bible is being taught with academic honest and spiritual sensitivity, and this is one of them."



*Pictured above are many of the alumni who attended the Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture at Mount Olive College.*



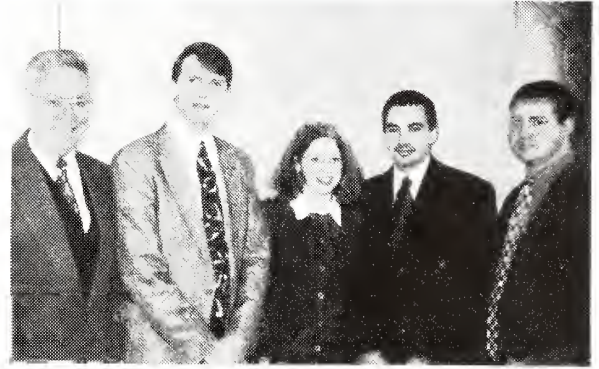
*Left to right: Dr. Michael R. Pelt, Faculty Emeritus, Mount Olive College; Dr. Lloyd R. Bailey, Guest Lecturer; The Rev. Leon Grubbs, President, Convention of Original Free Will Baptist; the Rev. C. H. Overman, Editor, The Free Will Baptist; the Rev. Frank Harrison, Founder of the Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture and Campus Minister, Mount Olive College.*



## *Campus Day at MOC*



During Transfer Day held recently at Mount Olive College Christy Thompson from Saint Mary's Grove Church, Johnston County, and Barry Kirby, originally from Little Rock Church, Wilson County discuss their plans with Dr. Richard Bounds, Associate Professor of Biology at the College.



## *Learning from the Experienced*

During the Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture held at Mount Olive College, three students learned about experiences of other pastors. Show from left to right are the Rev. Edmundo Gonzalez; students Tommy Yopp, Clair Taylor, and Jason Young; and the Rev. Todd Sutton. Mr. Gonzalez has been in the Christian ministry as a full-time pastor for 42 years. During that time he has pastored only six churches, one of which he returned for a second time, which was Hopewell Church in Johnston County, where he pastored a total of 20 years. Mr. Gonzalez is presently serving as pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Warsaw in Duplin County.

A younger man in the ministry, the Rev. Todd Sutton is currently serving as pastor of Rains Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church in Johnston County. Ordained in 1996, he has served as pastor for three churches. He is also a 1998 graduate of Mount Olive College with a degree in church ministries.

Tommy Yopp, from Folkstone Church, Onslow County, is a junior at the College majoring in religion. He is currently serving Shady Grove Church, Sampson County, as their youth pastor. Clair Taylor, from Hickory Chapel Church, Hertford County, is a freshman at the College majoring in religion and psychology. She is serving the Beulaville Church, Duplin County, as Choir and Youth Director. Jason Young, from Saint Mary's Church, Craven County, is a senior at the College majoring in church ministries. He is serving Little Rock Church, Wilson County, as their youth pastor.

These students not only are preparing for their education through formal learning, but they are also preparing as they each work under the supervision of experienced pastors.

*Mount Olive College  
Invites You to Enjoy  
an Evening of Sacred Music with  
Free Spirit*

*at Juniper Chapel FWB Church  
near Vanceboro*

*Sunday, April 11, 1999  
6:30 PM*

*and*

*at Pleasant Hill FWB Church  
near Pikeville (Wayne County)*

*Sunday, April 18, 1999  
7:00 PM*

## *MOC Baseball Team Ranked Third in Nation*

As of mid-March the Mount Olive College Trojan baseball team was ranked third in the Nation from the NCAA Division II Schools. Mount Olive College is a member of the Carolinas-Virginia Athletic Conference. This is the highest rank ever achieved by an athletic team in the history of the College. The baseball team broke the College's record for consecutive wins with 21 wins in a row compared with the old record of 17 wins in a row.

This spring the College will be seeking its fourth straight NCAA tournament invitation and its sixth conference title in the nineties. The Trojans also played in the 1992 NAIA World Series.



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SUN		MON		TUE	
28		29		30	31
4	Easter Daylight Savings — Set ahead 1 hour	5	FWB Press Closed Bookstore Closed Headquarters Closed	6	7 A Stoney C
11	Morning Star...	12	Pitt County OFWB Ministers Prayer Breakfast Three Steers Restaurant, Greenville, NC	13	Convention Executive Committee Headquarters Conference Room Ayden, NC
18		19		20	Sunday School Board Meeting Headquarters Conference Room Ayden, NC
Philippines					
25	Good Shepherd Sunday Home Missions and Evangelism	26	Mount Olive College Classes End Pee Dee Auxiliary, Study Course Oak Grove OFWB Church	27	28
Philippines					





## *Upcoming Events In April*

**MOC Trojans vs. Kinston Indians**

**April 7 • 7:00 PM • Grainger Stadium**

Mount Olive College baseball team takes on the Kinston Indians in an exhibition game. For more information, contact Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations, at (919) 658-2502.

**MOC Singers' Spring Fling**

**April 15 • 8:00 PM • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

Spring Fling is when the MOC Singers perform for the regional audience. It is a campus highlight every spring. Admission is free.

**Awards Day**

**April 22 • 11:00 AM • Rodgers Chapel**

Students are awarded plaques, certificates, and scholarships for the excellence in and out of the classroom.

**MOC Concert Choir Spring Concert**

**April 23 • 8:00 PM • Rodgers Chapel**

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir will present its Spring Concert to the public. Admission is free.

**Sunday Buffet**

**Sunday • 11:30 AM • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

Mount Olive College invites you to our weekly Sunday Buffet. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 years old and under (includes tax, beverage, dessert).

## **MINISTER'S PROGRAM**

### *Tax Seminar Held*

The Annual Tax Seminar for ministers was held on February 11, 1999 at the Best Western, Kinston, NC. The seminar is conducted each year by the Minister's Program. The first part of the program this year pertained to information relative to long-term health care. The presenters for this were representatives of Conway and Company Financial Services of Kinston, NC.

Mr. Curtis Smith, Certified Public Accountant, with offices in Kinston, was the presenter for the tax information session, a task he has undertaken for several years. The seminar is not limited to ministers. Church treasurers and other interested persons also attend each year.



*The Rev. Don Fader, director of the Minister's Program, introduces Curtis Smith, CPA.*



*Curtis Smith discusses tax matters with the Seminar participants.*



## *World Missions Conference held at Mount Olive College*

The Annual World Missions Conference, sponsored by the Free Will Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, was held in College Hall on the campus of Mount Olive College on Sunday, February 28, 1999, from 5 until 8 PM. The purpose of this conference is to challenge churches and individuals to be actively involved in missions outreach through prayer, giving, and going.

This year's emphasis was on "youth in missions." Special music was provided by a group of young ladies, "His Voice," from Sandy Plain Free Will Baptist Church. Students from Mount Olive College served as song leader and ushers. A team of four young people from Colorado who serve with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) presented a drama that vividly expressed the need for missions around the world. They also challenged those in attendance through testimony and slides to commit themselves to mission service.

The Rev. Steve Shamblin, with "Go Forth Missions," challenged parents to release their children to missions service. He related several personal experiences from his years in active missions work and called for a response from the people. Many came forward as an indication of their willingness to follow God's call — whatever and wherever it may be. We believe that many positive things will come from this year's conference.



*YWAM Team Drama*



*Steve Shamblin*



*Large number attended*

## *Chapel Dedicated at Catalat, Palawan*

A Thanksgiving and Dedication Service was held at Catalat on September 27, 1998. This outreach is a ministry of the Gawid Free Will Baptist Church through the vision of Pastor Bernardo Borja.

Following the dedication prayer and ribbon cutting by the Rev. Dario Basingil, Mission Director for the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines, and a laywoman from the congregation, the people entered the church for a praise and thanksgiving service.

The Rev. Basingil preached the Dedication Message. A couple who had previously been reached by the Rev. Borja came forward for prayer. We praise the Lord for the growth of the church in the Philippines. Please pray for us.



*Catalat Chapel Dedication*



*Ribbon cutting*



*Prayer at the altar*



## *Free Will Baptist Church Philippines, South District, Palawan*

*by Pastor Eder M. Peralta, District Chairman*

The Bible says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Truly He is so good to us. Since we started the work in Balacan, Brooke's Point, we have proven that God does not fail in His promises. We experienced hardship, financial problems, sickness and trials, but all of these things were used by God to show us that He called us to His divine field to harvest souls for His Kingdom. He will never leave us or forsake us. Our God is great



*Congregation celebrating the Church Anniversary.*

God Jehovah Jireh-Provider, Jehovah Rafah-Healer and Jehovah Shama-always with us.

On November 29, 1998, we celebrated the third anniversary of His church in Balacan, Brooke's Point, Palawan, Philippines. As we celebrated the goodness of God, we prepared different presentations, including the young people who gave their song interpretations by using tambourines, the adult choir, children acrostic and many more, just to give glory to His name who is worthy to be praised.

We believe that God will continue His divine plan to save the lost, to strengthen His Church, to care for everything we need. Let us give Him praise and glory!



*Young people praising the Lord in music.*

## *News Letter from India and Nepal*

*by Dr. E. M. Lall*

In the wake of hitherto unprecedented atrocities inflicted upon the Christians in India, all the Christian communities came together and formed a United Christian Forum, so as to be a help to each other in the hour of need. The false propaganda and allegations leveled against the community as a whole were refuted through the press, as



*Joint meeting of  
Christian leaders in Bareilly*

well as by protest march and public meetings.

The hue and cry of Indian Christians caught momentum only when the Australian missionary and his two minor sons were burnt to death and a concern was conveyed to our Government, specially by the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Even though the fire of anticongression and vandalism still continues, the situation is little better now.

The Free Will Baptist Church situated at Bareilly did not have the water supply from the Government for the last one decade. The Lord has been gracious that this great need has been fulfilled and the water pipes have been installed in the church campus, covering an area of about six acres. This project came suddenly and had it not been taken up



*Joint meeting of  
Christian leaders in Bareilly*

immediately the supply of water through the Government source would have been closed. It is indeed a great blessing!

The schools in India and Nepal are in full swing and yielding good results and gaining appreciation of



*News Letter from India and Nepal Continued...*

the public for the quality education imparted therein. The village people, the teachers and the children safeguarded the school properties from



*Nepali School*



*Sunday School in Nepal*

damage. The school at Tilhar is likely to get about four acres of land for school building.

The churches were protected by the congregation and we owe our gratitude to God that no loss has been done to our schools and church properties and the individuals.

Our Dhaunra-Tanda church is making immense progress in



*Tilhar School*

winning the lost souls and they have recently developed their church building as their own.

In view of the prevailing situation in our country, we are afraid that we



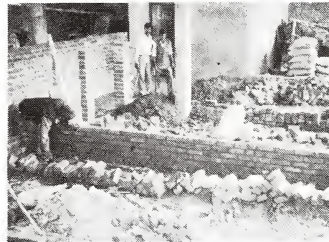
*Dhaunra-Tanda Church congregation beautiful building.*

may not be allowed to receive foreign aid for the church purposes, and for this reason many pastors and deacons which could subsist at their own have been made self-supporting. Efforts are on way to develop the English medium school at Agra and Rudrapur to bear the cost of the circuits.

We are thankful to the Board for

taking care of us at this time of misery and agony. The Board's letter written by our Director-Treasurer the Rev. Harold Jones, reads, "I think about you and pray for you daily. You, the churches, pastors, deacons, teachers and members are on my heart every day. I pray for your protection, provision, and for the advancement of the gospel in these difficult and trying times. God is able to do exceeding and wonderful things in the midst of trouble, for He is God!"

These words have kept up our heart and we are consoled that we have God's people to think and care for us.



*Classroom construction at Rudrapur*

**CHURCH FINANCE**

*Annual Membership Meeting*

The annual meeting of the Church Finance Membership Holders was held on February 16, 1999, at Spring Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC.

The annual meeting provides membership holders to review the financial condition of the Association and to act on the financial report, to elect a member of the Board of Directors to hold office for a term of five years, and to transact other business that comes before the body.

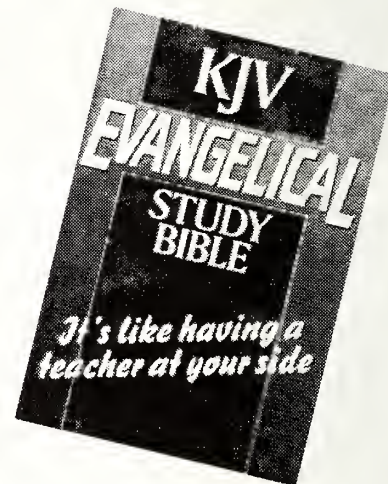
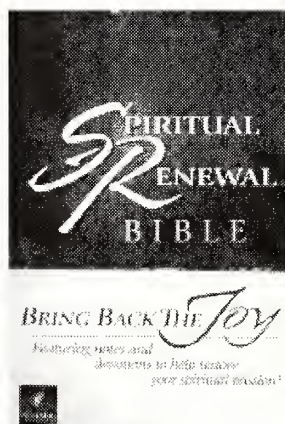
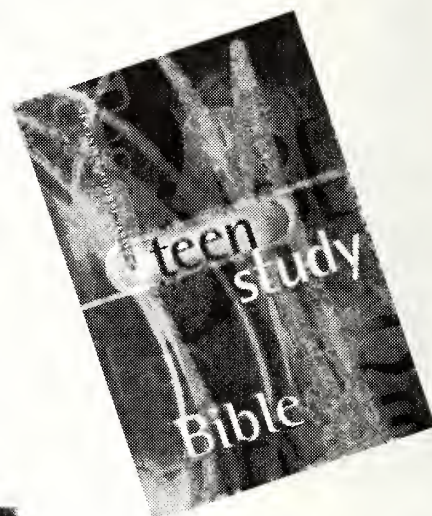


*The Rev. Walter Reynolds (left) serves as chairman of the board; Mr. William D. Thigpen serves as secretary; the Rev. Don Fader (right) is director.*

# A Wide Choice of Study Bibles

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Ayden, Kinston, Wilson and New Bern

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- The Living Insights Study Bible, \$29.99
- Spiritual Renewal Study Bible, \$24.99 also \$32.99
- The Life and Times Historical Reference Bible, \$39.99
- Holy Bible — People's Parallel Edition (KJV-NLT), \$29.99
- Nelson's Study Bible, \$19.00 also \$67.99
- The Rock, the Bible for Making the Right Choice, \$26.97
- The Teen Study Bible, \$29.99
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- The Experiencing God Study Bible, \$94.99
- Life Application Study Bible, \$49.97
- Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible, \$42.99
- The Nelson Classic Personal Study Bible, \$34.97
- Spirit Filled Life Study Bible, \$29.97
- The MacArthur Study Bible, \$59.99
- The Woman's Study Bible, \$29.97 also \$54.97
- KJV Evangelical Study Bible, \$34.99
- The Inspirational Bible, \$39.97
- The International Inductive Study Bible, \$42.99
- Ryrie Study Bible, \$39.99
- The Rainbow Study Bible, \$32.96
- The Life Recovery Bible, \$24.99
- The Open Bible, \$29.97 also \$34.99 and \$57.97
- Full Life Study Bible, \$39.99
- The KJ Study Bible, \$34.97 also \$42.97
- The Scofield Study Bible, \$39.99 also \$79.99 (large print)
- The Thompson Chain Reference, \$29.95 also \$49.95
- The Life and Times Historical Reference Bible, \$39.99
- The Christian Life Bible (52 studies guide you through the Christian life), \$27.99



For additional information, call (252) 746-6128 or 800-849-3927 or place your order to:

**Ayden Bible and Bookstore**

PO Box 159

Ayden, NC 28513

or to either one of our other Bookstores:

**Kinston Bible and Bookstore**

123 North Queen Street

Kinston, NC 28501

(252) 527-2843

**Wilson Bible and Bookstore**

2800 B-4 Raleigh Road

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(252) 243-4982

**New Bern Bible and Bookstore**

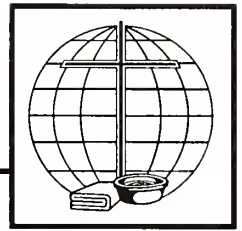
1232 South Glenburnie Road

Glenburnie Plaza

New Bern, NC 28562

(252) 638-6193





## *Valentine Gift Bags Presented to Seniors*

submitted by Rita Otta Jones

On February 14, there were several celebrations held at Powhatan Church, Clayton, NC. The Kemery Ard Sunday School Class and the Powhatan's Youth Group combined to make and present gift bags to our senior citizens. The Cherubs and AFCs colored and decorated the white paper bags and the AFC and YFA groups helped sort donated items like candy, fruit, cough drops, and cookies into the bags. The bags were presented at the Sunday morning service. It was an effort to show love between generations.

A baby dedication was also held during the worship service for the newest generation of the Powhatan family. Taking part in the ceremony were Ronnie and Misty Isenhour, sons, Trent and Randall; Dan and Lisa Murphy, newborn daughter, Rebecca Gail; Craig and Rhonda Davis, niece, Christian Shyanne Johnson; John and Barbara Howell, son, Jonathon Blake. The Ladies Auxiliary presented testaments to the children.

An evening baptism service concluded the day. Being baptized were Cathy, Nicole, and Brooks Lee; Lisa, Jamie, and Katie Coats; Shana Jones; and Nell Carrington. Two were rededications and four were youth group members. Little Dalton Coats watched in the audience and clapped excitedly saying, "That's my Mommy, that's my Daddy!" What a blessing!

Veterans in attendance received Valentine cards from youth member Nikki Jones and the history groups Children of the American Revolution (CAR) and Children of the Confederacy (COC), thanking them for their service to our country.

Congratulations to Youth members for awards received at the February 6 Rally. There were thirteen children in competition. Four will be representing the Cape Fear Conference at the May convention: Dani Allen, YFA, Public Speaking; Kelsey Coats, AFC, Lesson Presentation; Crystal Guy, AFC, Christian Writing; Roberta Widhalm, YFA, Lesson Presentation. Eight second place awards were given as follows: Dani Allen, YFA, Sculpture; Greg Bass, Cherub, Photography; Clay Coats, AFC, Woodworking; Lance Cavanaugh, AFC, Other; Sarah Cavanaugh, AFC, Drawing; Nikkie Jones, AFC, Photography; Nicole Lee, AFC, Wearable Art; and Cynthia Narron, AFC, Christian Writing. Hayley Benson won third place for Cherubs, Wearable Art. Will Allen participated with an AFC - Sculpture entry of the baby Jesus in the manger. All entries were wonderful and the youth worked hard to represent Powhatan.

The Bible Bowl team has been practicing since December and will be competing on April 17. We extend our sympathy to Ann Narron, YFA team coach, on the loss of her grandmother. We also ask that you remember youth member Lyndsay Carroll and her family during this time; she lost her grandmother, also.

Roger Hill received his license to preach from Powhatan on February 28 (two days after his birthday) and brought the morning message. Pastor Jim Bogle said he wanted our church to be the first one he preached at after actually receiving the license.

## *Faith Free Will Baptist Church Ordains Deacons*



*(From left to right) Maurice Cauley, the Rev. James Gurganus, Reginald Lewis and Larry Barrentine, Sr.*

The Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church, 2900 Bridges Street, Morehead City, North Carolina, proudly announces the Ordination of the following Deacons: Maurice Alon Cauley and Larry Norman Barrentine, Sr., on Sunday, February 14, 1999, by the Pastor, James H. Gurganus. After completing a 12-week Deaconship Program, the church members voted to appoint Reginald Keith Lewis (an already ordained deacon), Maurice Alon Cauley, and Larry Norman Barrentine, Sr. as Deacons. Each of these gentlemen was chosen on the basis of Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. These gentlemen were installed as Deacons with their wives at their sides: Mary Lewis, Sue Ellen Cauley, and Dottie Barrentine. Dean Gurganus and other church family beautifully decorated the fellowship hall in hearts for the occasion and prepared many delicious Hors d'oeuvres. God is good...and remember our Lord Jesus Christ brings us many Blessings. Please join us for Sunday school 9:45 AM and Worship 11:00 AM, Sunday evening worship 6:00 PM and Wednesday Bible study 7:30 PM.

### *Minister's Mid-Year Spiritual Life Banquet*

More than 50 ministers and their wives gathered at Bill's Barbeque, Wilson, NC, on February 19, 1999, for the Mid-Year Spiritual Life Banquet. Everyone enjoyed the Buffet prepared by Bill's. The Rev. Harold Swinson, president, welcomed everyone, reminding them to attend the Cragmont Minister's Conference in May.

Dr. David Hines, Chairman of the Department of Religion at Mount Olive College, along with Johnny Sullivan from Daniel's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, presented a program consisting of both contemporary and old-fashioned gospel hymns.



*Johnny Sullivan (at the keyboard) with Dr. David Hines.*



*Banqueting Together*

### *King's Cross Roads Church Plans Old Time Revival*

Revival Services will begin Sunday night, April 11, at Kings Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church and continue through Friday night, April 16. The Sunday night service will begin at 7:00 PM and the services Monday through Friday night will begin at 7:30 PM.

The Rev. Leon Harris, Pastor of Rose Hill Free Will Baptist Church of Winterville, NC will be the guest Evangelist, and there will be special singing each evening.

The pastor, Rev. Bruce Jones, and congregation extend to you a very cordial invitation attend an "Old-Time Revival;" "old-time" in length, with an "old-time preacher," with an "old-time Bible," with an "old-time faith," preaching an "old-time religion," looking for "old-time Christians," with an "old-time commitment," and believing God for "old-time results."

The Church is locate about 10 miles west of Greenville, between Farmville and Falkland at 2080 Seven Pines Road, Fountain, NC.

### *What About Christian Belief and Convictions?*

*by the Rev. Mott Batchelor, Pastor  
First Free Will Baptist Church, Plymouth, NC*

I read an article in the *News and Observer* on Sunday, February 21, by Alen Scher Zagier. It was about Tamir Goodman, a seventeen-year-old Yeshiva student and basketball star. I liked the article and what it had to say about the young man. I admire Tamir very much for his stand on religious beliefs. What disturbed me, and I believe should disturb all born-again Christians, is that the University of Maryland, whom Tamir has signed with, is petitioning the NCAA and the ACC to allow them to play an altered scheduled so they can accommodate Tamir's religious beliefs. Friday evening and Saturday games would be limited. May I say this is fine with me, but, where does this leave Christians? If a major college were to petition the ACC and the NCAA about not playing a Sunday schedule to accommodate a Christian, how far would the petition get before being laughed at? This young man has taken a stand and I am glad he has. I ask the Christian community, isn't it time for us to take a stand? We lost the right to have a public prayer and Christian devotions in the public school because of apathy. Now we have a Jewish student who will not play on the Sabbath Day and we are expected to accommodate him. I say, "fine," but when will Christians be accommodated? When are Christians going to stand up for their beliefs?



## *FWB League Convention*

The FWB League is on the move! Join us as we travel to Aspen Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Fountain, North Carolina for our State Convention on Saturday, April 17, 1999. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and the convention convenes at 10:00 AM.

This year the League will be traveling to old familiar stops like the Sword Drill and new exciting places with special entertainment by a guest choir. Interwoven with these stops there will be a layover in John 15:19 for traveling directions to our theme destination, "Out of This World." Pack up and join us for a great day in the Lord — April 17, 1999 at Aspen Grove!

~ • • • ~ • • ~

Churches who register with a \$25 fee are invited to enter contestants in the Sword Drill at the Junior, Intermediate, and adult levels. There is no limit on the number of entries for each church.

~ • • • ~ • • ~

If you are attending the Free Will Baptist Youth Convention on May 15, 1999, be sure and keep 1:00 PM open for a enjoyable visit with the Free Will Baptist League in Rodgers Chapel, Mount Olive College. Experience and exciting exhibition of the Sword Drill; remember the "good old days" with the skit, "My Heritage."



### **Heritage Day**

### **Stancil's Chapel**

### **Original Free Will Baptist Church**

April 17, 1999 • 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM

NC Hwy 42

(Near the Intersection of NC Hwy 222)

Yard Sale, Old Timey Games, Play Checkers at the Country Store, and Face Painting

Visit the OFWB, Community Service, Christian Wear and Home Interior Booths

Lots of Food, Baked Goods and Refreshments

We hope to see you there!



## **Yes, you can go to Cragmont. There is a way!**

Can't afford the cost of an entire trip or have only partial funds, *The Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund* can help. Ages 8 to 18 can apply. Fill out the following application and return by May 30, 1999 to Ellen Forlines, 2907 Ellsworth Drive, Greenville, NC 27834-4915. Recipients will be notified as soon as possible by the committee.

### **Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund Cragmont Trip Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church Attending \_\_\_\_\_

(For the child) Why would you like to go to Cragmont?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(For the person referring the child) Give a brief statement of need.

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Circle the week you would like to attend.**

YFA Week — June 28–July 3, 1999 (Ages 13 to 18)

AFC Week — July 5–10, 1999 (Ages 8–13)

Referring Party \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Trips to Cragmont are sponsored annually by the Christian Fellowship Class of the Winterville Free Will Baptist Church through the Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund.*

# People & Events

## North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists Seventy-Second Annual Session

May 13, 1999

Hosted by

Western District Woman's Auxiliary Convention

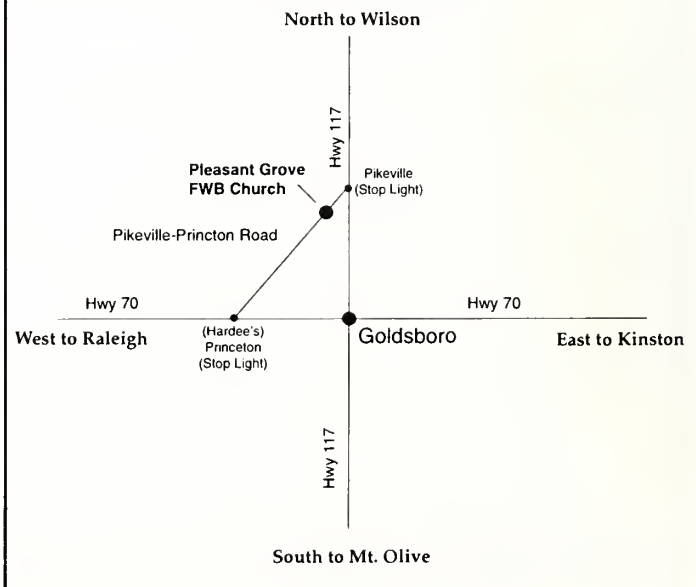
Pleasant Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, North Carolina

Theme: "I will prepare him an habitation"

Scripture: "The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation: my father's God, and I will exalt him" (Exodus 15:2).

8:30	Registration	Joan Little Central District	Song of Worship	Servant Heart
9:15	Call to Worship	Servant Heart	The Message	Dr. W. Burkette Raper Director of Planned Giving Mount Olive College
9:30	Woman's Auxiliary Hymn No. 225 "In the Service of the King"	Congregation	Hymn of Service No. 309 "I Want to be a Worker"	Congregation
	Call to Order	Carolyn Jernigan President	12:00	Denominational Ministries The Rev. David Charles Hansley General Administrator Original Free Will Baptists
	Devotions	Teresa Grubbs Albemarle District	12:20	Business Session Report of Committees
	Prayer	Linda Baker Cape Fear District	Hymn of Commitment No. 20 "Take My Life and Let it Be"	Congregation
10:00	Welcome	Betty Lynch President, Western District	Benediction and Blessing	Carlee Stallard Piedmont District
	Response	Ava Edwards Pee Dee District	Closing	Servant Heart
	Announcements	Tempie Jones President, Pleasant Grove Church		Music Director — Becky Glover Pianist — Joan Allen    Organist — Lynette Hales
10:10	President's Address			
	Business Session			
	Convention Offering			
	Offertory Prayer	Sondra Thick Western District		
	The Response	Servant Heart		
	Life Membership Award	Committee		
10:45	Break	Cragmont Choir		
11:00	Woman's Auxiliary Hymn	Servant Heart		
	Memorial Service	Judy Thaanum Eastern District		
	Hymn of Challenge No. 56 "Give of Your Best to the Master"	Congregation		
	Introduction of Speaker	Happy R. Taylor Program-Prayer Chairman		

Pleasant Grove FWB Church is located approximately 1 1/2 miles west of Pikeville, NC on Pikeville-Princeton Road.





## People & Events

### North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee



(Row 1, from left to right) Happy R. Taylor, Program-Prayer Chairman; Nina Grace Register, Devotion Compiling Co-Editor; Carolyn Jernigan, President; Hilda Starling, Literature Committee Chairman; (Row 2, from left to right) Dianne R. Riley, Christian Education Chairman; Sandra Jones, Secretary; Deborah King, Study Course Chairman; Jean F. Ackiss, Field Secretary; Joan Little, Vice President; (Row 3, from left to right) Mamie Dail, Corresponding Secretary; Sheryll Wood, Devotion Compiling Editor; Teresa Grubbs, Mission Chairman; Martha Parsons, Youth Chairman; Angela Warren, Co-Youth Chairman.

## CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. James Warren is available for pulpit supply, on a part-time or full-time basis. He is in good standing with the Eastern Conference. He may be contacted at 649 Poplar Street, Kinston, NC 28584, phone 252-527-1648.

Licensed minister Otis Hamm, Jr. is available for pulpit supply work. Mr. Hamm is a member of the Cape Fear Conference, is in good standing, and is currently preparing for enrollment of the MOD program at Mount Olive College in March. Mr. Hamm can be reached at 919-894-1497.

The Rev. Bob Burke is available for pastoral work, revivals, or pulpit supply. He may be contacted at 1196 Jefferson Road, Pinetown, NC 27865, phone 252-927-2041.

## To All Ministers of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Registration for Minister's Conference May 3-6, 1999

Please return this form by April 26, 1999 to Doug Skinner, 817 Lynn Road, Durham, NC 27703

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your building preference. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis!

Main Building \_\_\_\_\_ Motel \_\_\_\_\_ Floyd House \_\_\_\_\_ Dorm \_\_\_\_\_

I will be staying off campus \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any existing health problems that would prevent you from being on the second floor? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

In the space below, please indicate the person you plan to room with, if you will be staying in the Main Building or the Motel.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you plan to eat supper at Cragmont on Monday night, May 3.

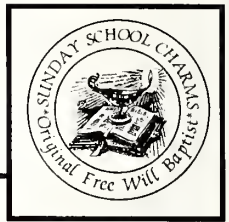
Please note: All minister's wives who stay on campus will room in the dorm behind the dining hall. \_\_\_\_\_ Check here if your wife will be staying on campus.

If you wish to join the Ministerial Association this year, but cannot attend our conference, you may join or renew your membership by sending \$30.00 membership dues to Doug Skinner, 817 Lynn Road, Durham, NC 27703.

Please be advised that all rooms at Cragmont will have a per room charge instead of an individual charge as we have had in the past.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



## Large Number attend Sunday School Institute



by Paul Grubbs (Photos by C. H. Overman)

March 6, 1999, was a very exciting day for Original Free Will Baptists who attended the Sunday School Institute at Mount Olive College. The theme for the Sunday School Institute followed the same theme as the Convention, "The Call to Witness". Since the Sunday School is one of the evangelistic tools of the church, all of the workshops were geared to exhorting participants to share their faith; therefore, we included workshops such as: "Growing in Christ," taught by the Rev. David C. Hansley; "Harvest Covenant," taught by the Rev. Al Markuson. Both of these seminars emphasized the mission of the Church to obey the great commission, which will help us build Sunday schools and churches. Other workshops included: "Ministering to Teens," the Rev. Frankie Baggett; "Ministering to Young People," Mrs. Evelyn English; "Ministering to Early Childhood Children," Mrs. Mary Dudley, Director of Sunday School Ministries; "Ministering to Senior Citizens," Dr. Burkette Raper; "Literature in the Sunday School," Mrs. Elinor Hawkins; and "Seven Laws of Teaching," the Rev. Ray Wells. Mrs. Cathy Crumpler organized and facilitated activities for the young people.



Rev. David Charles Hansley



Mrs. Mary Dudley



Rev. Al Markuson

This year our Sunday School Institute was a great success with over 375 participants from sixty-two churches. We had thirty-one churches that received certificates for doing special Sunday school activities during the month of February. Most of the adults like the way we did the registration and most liked the workshops. We received comments such as: enlightening, well planned, enjoyable, inspiring, great topics, great fellowship, wonderful, motivational, look forward to next year, thanks for youth activities, and other compliments. Participants suggested: bottled water for the brunch, larger classrooms, more time for the seminars, shorter lunch session by shifting some of the information into the opening session, training for Sunday school superintendents and assistants, increase the number of seminars, have more hand-outs, send promotional material out earlier, pre-registration for seminars, and writers of the Original Free Will Baptist quarterlies should incorporate some of these fantastic learning ideas into the quarterlies.



Dr. W. Burkette Raper



Rev. Frankie Baggett

Would it be better to send the information out earlier or for the pastor and Sunday school superintendents to share the information as soon as they receive it? One person said that neither her pastor nor superintendent had announced the Sunday School Institute. Pastors and superintendents are key people in the Sunday school. They need to provide training and promote every possible training opportunity.



Mrs. Elinor Hawkins



Mrs. Evelyn English

Thank you for participating. All of the comments written on the cards are appreciated. The Sunday School Board thanks Sue Crytzer, Diane Riley, and all the staff of Mount Olive College for the great hospitality they showed to us during the Sunday School Institute. Our thanks go to all the worship leaders for the great job they did. The Rev. Bruce Dudley created and printed the certificates given to the Sunday Schools. Thanks, Bruce.

**Activities for May:** Make a bulletin board with pictures of your youth around the words HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.

**Activity:** Exhort everyone to participate in "Scripta Pal" and share the way they show love and appreciation to their parents.



Rev. Ray Wells



# Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator

Convention  
of Original  
Free Will Baptists



## *Logo for the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*

*The Church, His Servant (Mark 10:43-45)*

**THE CROSS:** In keeping with Christian tradition, the Christ event is the central focus of this model. The CROSS itself becomes central as it reflects the Christ event.

**A. THE VERTICAL ARM:** The vertical arm of the cross is indicative of the divine-human relationship in an "I-Thou" context. The initiative in establishing this relationship is from God. The response of humanity is essential to the relationship. The sovereign Lord has set self-limitations by allowing humanity the freedom to respond negatively or affirmatively to the grace offered in the Christ event. When humanity responds positively, the divine-human part of the relationship takes place. The servant leader always knows that the ability to have faith, to hear and respond to God's initiative, is a gift of God's grace.

**B. THE HORIZONTAL ARM:** The horizontal arm of the cross is a perpetual reminder of the human-human relationship which is essential to a valid expression of the Christian experience. The portion of the faith experience is where the Incarnation continues in and through persons. Here faith is "fleshed out" and our lives in and through the human document. Ethical and moral issues and concerns are a part of the faith experience; a person's relationship to society in general becomes a valid part of the faith's expression in this dimension of the total experience. The total mission concern of the church is couched in the arena of the human-human relationship. Ministry happens at the point where the divine-human and human-human dimensions intersect. This is where people of faith feel the greatest challenge and stress of Christian living. Oscar Cullman refers to this experience as "the overlap of the ages." He explains that the Christian lives *simultaneously* in the Age to come (Kingdom of Heaven) and the Present Age (Kingdom of the World).

**THE GLOBE:** The globe depicted in the model is indicative of the arena of the mission ministry and concern of each Christian and the servant leader. The world, all humanity, is the proper focus of Christian ministry. This makes it incumbent upon the servant leader to have a broad and open world view.

**THE BASIN AND TOWEL:** The basin and towel are highly significant for the concept of Christian Servanthood. These symbols historically are reminiscent of the ancient eastern practice of household servants washing the dusty feet of guest as they arrived at the host's home. Possibly this is the most appropriate symbol we have of Christian servanthood. It is also a very appropriate symbol of the priesthood of all believers in the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. The minister and deacons are not the officiates here-each believer ministers to other believers. There is no distinction between clergy, deacons, and other lay persons in the observance of this ordinance and participation is completely voluntary.

---

**Note:** Artwork of our logo is available to our churches and ministers who are members of our Convention and permission is granted to use this artwork when recognizing their affiliation with our denomination. To receive your artwork, call the Headquarters (252) 746-4963 or write to Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

---

# Convention Update

## Directional Signs

Roadside-type church directional signs with our denominational logo and the wording "Original Free Will Baptist Church" are available through our headquarters office.

The signs are 18" X 24". They are white baked-on enamel metal signs. The border and lettering are in black. The logo is colored with the cross in yellow and the globe in blue.

### Cost:

1 side printed without church name	\$23.00
1 side printed with church name	\$40.00
2 sides printed without church name	\$38.00
2 sides printed with church name	\$72.00

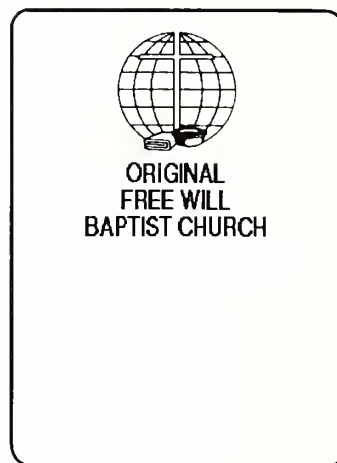
Note: These prices do not include TAX or shipping.

### To place an order:

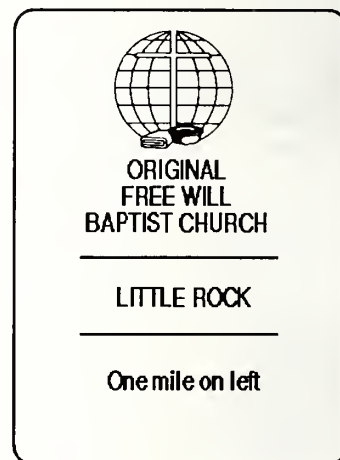
Complete this form and send to Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Make checks payable to: Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

Use attached form

Purchase several directional signs and let others know how to get to your church.



- **Metal signs**
- **Baked-on enamel**
- **Screen printed design**



The signs are only \$23 each. For an additional \$17, we will add the information relative to your particular church.

Please send us \_\_\_\_\_ sign(s) at \$23 a piece. We understand that we will be responsible for adding information about our church's location.

Please send us \_\_\_\_\_ sign(s) at \$23 a piece. We also want you to add the following information about our church:

We understand this will cost us \$17 more for each sign.

Church name \_\_\_\_\_

Church address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

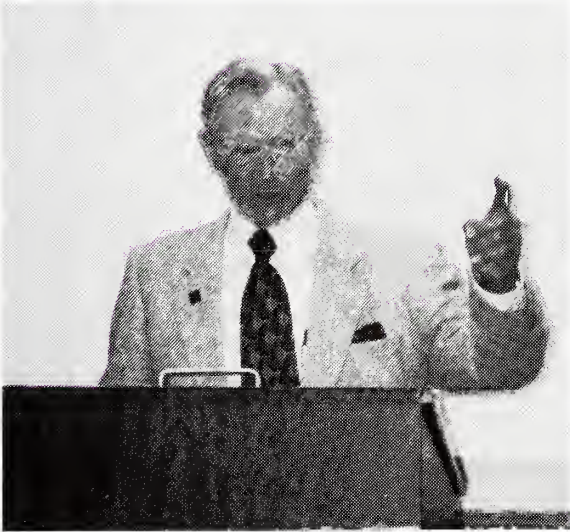
Person placing order \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number of person ordering \_\_\_\_\_



## Come, let us worship!

*"...worship the Father in spirit and in truth:..."*



The Rev. Dan Beamon of Snow Hill

We, at the Headquarters, are committing ourselves to glorifying God by worshipping, which is the adoration of God. Worship is duly required of His church through praise, prayer, the reading and preaching of His Word.

On the first Wednesday of the month, the Headquarters family gathers in our Conference room at 11:00 AM for worship and prayer. All other Wednesdays, we gather at 11:15 AM for devotions and prayer.

The Rev. Dan Beamon of Snow Hill, North Carolina, spoke for our worship in February. Brother Beamon is a member of the Central Conference and has served our beloved denomination as an ordained minister for 66 years. He was pastor of Rose Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church of Ayden, North Carolina for 18 years prior to his semi-retirement. Today, at the young age of 90, he serves as the interim pastor at Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church of Leland, North Carolina.

**You are invited to join us on any Wednesday for our Worship and Prayer.**

We also invite you to share your Prayer Request with us. For your convenience, you may call (252) 746-4963, Fax (252) 746-7993 or return the form below, and we will *gladly* include your request in our prayers.



## Prayer Request

*"Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night" Nehemiah 1:6.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your request to: Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, PO Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513  
Call in your request: (252) 746-4963 Fax (252) 746-7993



# THE GOLDEN YEARS

*Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens*



"Life...is the crucial game which we play only once. This game must of necessity end in victory or defeat"  
(Paul Tournier, *The Seasons of Life*, John Knox Press).

## Who are senior citizens?

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

Recently I was invited to conduct a church workshop on "Ministering to Senior Citizens." My first task was to determine who are senior citizens, but I discovered that there is no clearly established age at which one reaches this milestone in life.

The term "senior citizen" is a mark of our times, it does not even appear in the unabridged *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* of 1971. In more recent dictionaries, however, senior citizen is defined as:

- "An elderly person," *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary*, 1995.
- "A person of or over the age of retirement," *American Heritage Dictionary*, 1996; and
- "Golden Years," *The Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus* (American Edition), 1996.

Let's take a look at these definitions.

### "An Elderly Person"

I do not know exactly when I crossed the mystical line which separates those who are middle age from senior citizens. What I do know is that the line has now been crossed.

Reaching this milestone brings us to a crossroads in life. Since we do not have the option of going back in time or age, we must choose which road we will take. One option is the road of denial. We can try to travel on as if no changes are taking place in our bodies, minds or emotions, even though our declining strength and changing values tell us that we are entering a new phase in our lives.

A wiser choice is to accept our senior years as a bonus from God. At the beginning of the Twentieth Century, the average age people in the United States could expect to live was less than fifty; today, it is seventy-six. These extra years afford us an opportunity to evaluate the direction and purpose of our lives.

The challenge is to make our senior years more than an extension in time. Unless we take charge, these years can be dribbled away in trifles or simply endured in hardships and in the decline of our health. In the words of Carl Sanburg, let us "keep away from the little deaths." God has given us these years because He still has a purpose for our lives.

### "A Person of Retirement Age"

Retirement is actually a new idea. Prior to and during World War II, most people worked as long as their health would permit, and often financial circumstances made it necessary for them to continue working to the very end of their lives.

Today, an increasing number of senior citizens will spend one-fourth, and some even one-third, of their lives beyond their active working years. This phenomenon has been made possible by our extended life expectancy and the strength of America's unparalleled economy. In addition, the average age at which Americans are retiring is now sixty-two, down from sixty-six in 1960. The advent of Social Security, federal, state, and private retirement plans and tax deferred programs have combined to provide a financial safety net unknown to previous generations.

The values of today's citizens were honed out of painful experiences. The Great Depression of the 1930s was a period of financial hardship and disaster during which millions of Americans lost their jobs, their homes and farms. The landscape of the nation was marked by human suffering and social turmoil. Those who lived through those years learned the value of money because they earned it. They disciplined themselves to live within their means and to save for rainy days.

Just as the Depression was beginning to abate, World War II descended upon us. Human freedom hung in the balance as the bloodiest conflict in history was fought in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. The world-wide death toll exceeded fifty million, including nearly 300,000 of the finest young men in our nation. To understand the current generation of senior citizens, we have to appreciate their deep sense of patriotism. They know the meaning of a text inscribed on a memorial to soldiers killed in a battle thousands of miles from their home:

"When you go home  
Tell them of us, and say:  
For your tomorrow,  
We gave our today."

### "The Golden Years"

*Our State* (North Carolina) magazine recently asked its readers to identify their favorite month of the year. The choice was October — the month when nature reflects the beauty of maturity.

In like manner, our senior years represent the season of maturity in human life. These years are not always easy, but they provide us an opportunity to learn the meaning of the words over the doorway of the Cathedral of Milan: "All that pleases is but for a moment. All that troubles is but for a moment. Only what is eternal is important."

1999 (Vol. 4, No. 6) W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Comments and suggestions welcomed. Reprints may be made for free distribution.





Dr. Pepper Worthington

# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Julian of Norwich. *Revelations of Divine Love in The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics*. Introduction by Timothy P. Weber. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

## Introduction

The thirteenth revelation of Julian of Norwich points to the deeds of God and to the nobility of all creation. Man is the crown of God's making, and despite the influx of sin upon the earth, Julian saw that God would make all things whole, well, and worthy.

## On Sin

What is sin to Julian of Norwich? Sin is "all that is not good" (364). How is sin known? "It cannot be know except by the pain that is caused thereby (364). Sin causes all pain. But God has a secret regarding sin. God will make all things well one day. Sin exists for people for a reason. She declares of God: "On every person that He loveth, in order to bring them to His bliss, He layeth something, which, though it is of no offense in His sight, is a reason why they are humbled and despised in this world, scorned and mocked and cast out. This He doeth to prevent their taking harm of the pomp and of the pride and of the vain glory of this wretched life" (365).

## Glorious Remedy To Sin

God's truth has two parts, according to Julian of Norwich. "One part is our Saviour"; the other part is "our Salvation" (366). Christ comes to us *inwardly* while the Holy Church comes to us *outwardly*. But God's grace is the glorious remedy to sin, and this grace is evident in Christ and in the Holy Church. The Lord speaks to Julian and tells her: "I may make all things well; and I can make all things well; and I shall make all things well; and I will make all things well; and thou shalt see thyself that all manner of things shall be well" (366). Imagine the comfort of this voice during a time when the bubonic plague raged.

## On God's Nature

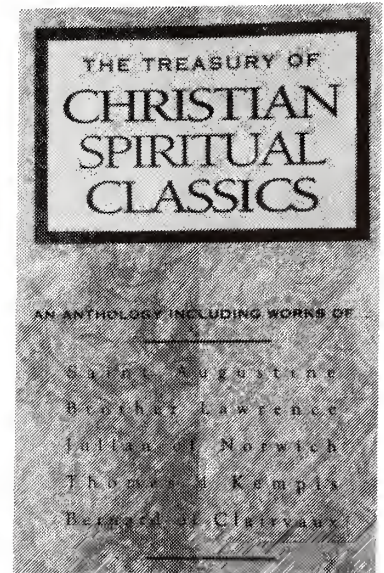
God is our Head, according to Julian. God has "the quality of compassion and pity" as well as the "quality of thirst and longing" (367). These qualities reflect the ultimate *goodness* of God, just as the quality of pity cometh of the same endless goodness" (367).

The goodness and love of God are God's nature. And God tells Julian that all shall be well. "For just as the blessed Trinity made all things from naught, right, so the same blessed Trinity shall make all well that is not well" (368).

What about evil in the world? Julian answers: "All that is good our Lord doeth, and all that is evil our Lord suffereth" (371). But God's goodness shall prevail; His meekness and mildness, His mercy and grace shall prevail.

## Conclusion

Julian feels comforted in the faith that sin shall not hinder God's goodness working. God loves all unconditionally. Sin exists. Why? "And the reason is that we might know our own feebleness and the mischief that we fall into by sin, and to make us meek and to make us cry to God for help and grace" (373).



***Revelations of Divine Love in The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON**

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PERKINS LIBRARY  
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5/22/06

# Vacation Bible School Materials Are In!



Cook, Augsburg, Gospel Light, Child Evangelism, Concordia

Standard Publishing Kits are now available at the Bible and Bookstores of  
Ayden, Kinston, New Bern, and Wilson

## *The Free Will Baptist*

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# The Free Will Baptist

MAY 1999

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Prayer





## Trends: Both Good and Bad

A trend is, according to *The American Heritage College Dictionary*, "The general direction in which something tends to move." We are routinely affected by trends. How we deal with them is important. Some trends are good for us, such as the trends toward balanced nutrition, proper dieting, etc. Proper fashion trends are harmless. For the male gender it may be a simple matter of merely learning how to tie a new, wider necktie, or adapting to a three-button suit. There are many such minor trends — simple matters to deal with in the routine of life.

There are also trends in entertainment and recreation. We are aware of the trend toward permissiveness and acceptance of adverse and sometimes demoralizing practices and lifestyles. The entertainment world has sold us a false concept — that this is the way life is, and therefore, there's nothing wrong with it. This is the trend and lifestyle that was practiced by the antediluvians of Noah's day, and those of Sodom and Gomorrah. Needless to say, we know what happened to them; but God spared the righteous.

Trends also take place within churches and denominations. Some are beneficial and some are harmless. For example, there was a time when our Free Will Baptist churches (for the most part) used organs in their worship services. Later, they began to use the more modern piano; then the organs became popular again. Now we use both in many of our churches, and we have also begun to use other types of instruments. What we are seeking to convey is that trends are always taking place, and examples are unlimited. There is, however, a trend within the religious world today that is disturbing and one we must be aware of if we are to preserve our denominational heritage, practices, and beliefs.

The trends we are referring to borders on ecumenicism; it calls for the breaking down of denominational barriers. Ecumenism, which is a movement promoting unity among denominations, sounds good. Indeed, there are times when various Christian bodies may come together for prayer, revival, or for the promotion and advancement of any worthy and charitable cause. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, for example, operates under this principle; it calls for and depends on the

prayers and support of denominational leaders and laity working together in an evangelistic effort. National days of prayer and world days of prayer are other examples. Such assemblages do not promote ecumenicism; when they end, each goes back to his own assembly and that's the way it should be and must be. When unity exists without the compromise of basic and fundamental practices and beliefs, it may be classified as harmless.

A few weeks ago, we were waiting for a table in a restaurant and found ourselves in conversation with a couple. In our conversation, the subject of denominations and churches came up. These people, like many others these days, are in one way or another, involved with three churches of three different denominations.

Over the years, I have often expressed my feelings concerning our denomination. I have been a part of it all of my life. It has been a part of me and it has been good to me, providing me with the opportunity to serve my Lord under the Free Will Baptist banner. There are other denominations much larger than ours and they are fulfilling their places in the advancement of His Kingdom. In contrast, there are churches that claim to be independent, belonging to no particular denomination. That is their right and privilege; yet, I have often heard them attack and ridicule denominations, sometimes belittling their doctrines and practices and speaking in a disparaging manner about "the denominational bosses sitting in their plush offices." I have observed the reference to "breaking down denominational barriers" move across the TV screen as one of the elaborate productions begin on TBN. I say, "Let the independents be independent if they choose; but that does not justify climbing over the backs of others to achieve their goals."

The trend away from denominationism is a reality and denominational loyalty is on the decline. It is evident in our own denomination. Is such a trend good? Is it truly advancing His Kingdom in a greater way than denominationism? We will consider the matter further in our next editorial.



C. H. Overman



**THE FREE WILL BAPTIST**

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All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

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**NEXT MONTH**

*June is  
 Cragmont Assembly  
 Month*

*May is  
 Children's  
 Home  
 Month*





## *The Church Flower Committee*

*by Elaine Swinson*

Entering the church with a bounce in my step, I reach for my church bulletin, greeting all those having arrived before me, turning to make sure “my place” isn’t occupied. I quickly check out the bulletin board and the flower arrangements placed in the church as I make my way to the pew. Yep! Everything seems in order. I can relax and read the morning agenda contained within the new three-fold bulletin.

Scanning past the order of service, I go directly to the prayer requests to see who has been added since last week. My heart skips a beat as I notice those who have been deleted from the list because of death. Hurriedly I move on, not wanting the threatening tears to become a reality. Mentally taking note of the “opportunities of the week” which affect me, (which is all of them, except for the men’s prayer breakfast), my eyes focus on the announcements and committee listing for the week and month.

I pause long enough to absorb the especially beautiful song the pianist is playing before completing my journey through the written words before me. Suddenly, a single paragraph leaps out to startle me. Checking one more time for verification, I am convinced that it is my name which appears on the “flower committee” for the upcoming month. Allowing the warm feeling of happiness to drift over me as the result of this revelation, my mind immediately clicks into gear.

Among God’s greatest blessing granted to me, is the beauty of a flower in bloom. A kaleidoscope of bright colors parade in front of my eyes, as the possibilities of arrangements flow through my thoughts. My eyes dart again to observe the existing floral expressions adorning the stands in front of the church. On this particular day, delicate blooms of silk, nestling among

bright splashes of green ivy, smile from their places of honor.

Mentally, I begin to search through the floral contributions of months past. On one occasion, the flowing greenery and beautiful “airy” arrangements were replaced with the simplicity of a handful of fragrant cut flowers from the garden of a very sweet, 94-year-old lady. She is, herself, a part of the bouquet of God. The whites, golds, pinks, and purples of potted mums marched in during the cool days of the autumn months. Peace lilies stood proudly at attention in honor of the death and Resurrection of our Lord during the Easter season. Dried okra, cattails, pine cones, red and orange berries, and sweet gum balls added flavor to the winter bouquets. So much beauty and ability is difficult to comprehend as each contributor seemingly is gifted with their own artistic interpretations. The desire to give our worship services an extra measure of completeness has been evident in their efforts.

As the choir quietly takes its place, giving the signal for worship services to begin, a secret sense of contentment gently creeps through my soul, encouraging my lips to form a smile reflecting my happiness. My last thoughts before focusing my attention on our pastor, is the knowledge that no matter what flowers I choose, whether freshly cut from my garden, purchased at a nursery, or arranged from the vast assortment of silk stems available in today’s modern world, the beauty of the Lord will be realized in the eye of the beholder. Whether simple or extravagant, our Father in Heaven recognizes the floral offerings we make as an avenue of expressing our appreciation for the beauty He has blessed us with. Amen!



# A Salute to Mothers

## A Tribute to Mothers

There is something on this earth  
More precious than silver or gold;  
More beautiful than diamonds or  
roses,  
For all the world to behold.

It's the love of a Christian mother,  
Who has faithfully followed God;  
Who taught her children the things  
that are right,  
As down life's way they trod.

Who, in trials and tribulations,  
Trusted firmly in the Lord;  
Who taught her children to pray each  
day,  
And to read God's Holy Word!

A tower of strength to lean upon,  
When troubles come your way;  
A friend you can always turn to,  
At the ending of the day.

She'll take you in her arms,  
And drive away your fears;  
Then point you unto Jesus  
Who has loved you through the  
years!

Her door is always open  
To her weary wandering child;  
And no matter how you've treated  
her,  
She loved you all the while!

So today, we lift our voices,  
In prayer to God above;  
And thank Him for our mothers,  
Who taught us of His love!

*Who can find a virtuous woman? For her  
price is far above rubies (Proverb 31:10)*  
—Louise Davis, in *Pulpit Helps*

## Memories of Mother

She carried me under her heart,  
loved me before I was born, took  
God's hand and walked through the  
"valley of shadows" that I might live.

She bathed me when I was  
helpless, clothed me when I was  
naked, fed me when I was hungry,  
rocked me to sleep when I was weary,  
and sang to me as the voice of an  
angel.

She held my hand when I learned  
to walk, suffered with my sorrow,  
laughed with my joy, glowed with  
my triumph, and while I knelt at her  
side, she taught my lips to pray.

She was a loyal friend when others  
failed. Through all the days of my  
youth, she gave me strength for my  
weakness, courage for my despair,  
and hope for my hopeless heart.

She prayed for me whether the day  
was flooded with sunshine or  
saddened by shadows. I can never  
repay the debt I owe to my mother.

—Riley G. Walker, in *Pulpit Helps*



## A Mother's Touch is Forever

A mother's touch begins when she  
first tickles the soles of little feet...and  
continues until she tempers souls  
with her love.

A mother's touch is as constant as  
her love...finding its way through  
clouds of rain or showers of  
happiness.

A mother's touch inspires her  
children to be even better than they  
are...whether with a pat on the back  
when things go right or a hug when  
things go wrong.

A mother's touch is enabling,  
giving her children the courage and  
confidence to reach out and touch  
someone, too.

A mother's touch helps put the  
pieces back together, whether the  
pieces of a broken doll, a broken date,  
or a broken relationship.

A mother's touch fills hearts with  
hope and homes with love.

—From *Pulpit Helps*

# Assurance of Salvation

by Dr. Billy R. Yawn

The Lord has lit my life as a burning candle,  
The Bible is nearby upon the mantle  
My daily prayers include the sick and the lost too.  
That is what Jesus instructed us to do.  
Christ Jesus must be the center of our walk.  
The Holy Spirit corrects our daily task and talk.  
The world is searching to see God in us.  
We are the church, God's sacred Holy Trust.

There is peace in my soul today.  
All sins are forgiven, they cast away.  
My name is recorded in the Book of Life.  
My soul is at peace above sinful strife.  
The fruit of the Spirit is the order of each day.  
That's God's simple plan to show us the way.



*The Annual*  
**NATIONAL  
DAY OF  
PRAYER**

*First Thursday of May*

*May 6, 1999*

## LIGHT THE NATION ... WITH PRAYER

*You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house (Matthew 5:14, 15).*

**Press Release from May 8, 1998**

### *Evidence of Prayer Felt throughout the Nation During Largest National Day of Prayer in U.S. History*

Reports from across the nation received by the National Day of Prayer Task Force indicate that God is indeed moving on behalf of His praying people.

On May 7, Americans from all denominations and backgrounds gathered nationwide for the 47th annual National Day of Prayer. The prayer celebration, which was estimated at 1.5 million participants, involved approximately 20,000 observances coordinated by more than 40,000 volunteers. Since 1988 when the National Day of Prayer (NDP) began to be observed on the first Thursday of May each year, the day has grown incredibly.

"As we receive word from state and regional coordinators, it is evident that there is a general outpouring of God's grace in this nation," states Shirley Dobson, completing her sixth year as Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. "It's so exciting to see the incredible work God is doing in the hearts and lives of people as a result of people coming together in prayer. If God did all this in one day, just imagine what He will do if we commit ourselves to pray regularly on behalf of our communities and nation."

Every state has its own success stories. NDP coordinators from all over the country believe they are seeing growth in unity among churches and races and a budding revival in our nation. Reports of spiritual awakening are arriving from several states including Florida, Alabama, and Virginia. As people prayed on top of buildings, on bridges, from airplanes, in council chambers, from courthouse steps, and in businesses, schools, parks and other public places, people's hearts were unmistakably changed.

The first Thursday of every May has been designated by Congress and the president at The National Day of Prayer (NDP) and is marked on Hallmark's official calendars. Proclamations were received from the president and all 50 state governors (plus several territories) again this year. The National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 and amended in 1988 as the first Thursday of every May. The first official call to national prayer on record in the U.S. was in 1775 by the Continental Congress, asking people to pray for God's guidance in forming a new nation.



# Why Pray?

Prayer unleashes the power of God on earth. We need to pray because the Bible commands us to (Matthew 6:5, Romans 12:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:17). Jesus prayed regularly and we should follow His example (Luke 5:16, 11:1). Prayer is how we communicate with God and participate in His works. It gives us power over evil (Mark 9:29) and is always available to us (Psalm 139:7). It grants us the privilege of experiencing God, keeps us humble before Him, strengthens the bonds between believers and can succeed where other means have failed.

## Why Pray for Our Nation?

God answers the prayers of His people. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, the Lord instructs us in the importance of praying for our nation: "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

If we truly have a desire to light our nation and see America change for the better, we need to take the initiative and pray. Ask God to move in your neighborhood and community. Pray that people will turn to Him and seek His will for our land.

## Why Pray for Our Leaders?

We don't always see "eye to eye" with our elected officials, do we? So why should we pray for them? The most

important reason is that God, in His Word, commands us to (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

Our leaders are under tremendous pressure. They need our prayers and they need to know they are being supported in prayer. We are also told to pray for our leaders "that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all goodness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:2).

Pray that our leaders will seek to serve God in a manner that is worthy of their positions of authority. Ask the Lord to give strength to those leaders who are opposing darkness.

## Why Pray for Our Communities?

We often complain about certain neighborhoods or parts of our city that are hives of immorality and crime, but what can we do about them?

Intercessory prayer has the power to change your community. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus said that "where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them." It's time we

take back our communities and cover them with our supplications.

Why not begin the practice of prayer walking, or start having regular meetings at your church in order to pray for your community?

Intercede for your community. Ask God to bless your efforts as you seek to reclaim your neighborhood. Pray for unity within the body of Christ.

## Why Pray for Our Families?

The family is an institution ordained by God. A healthy family should be a place of love, support, spiritual growth and, of course, prayer. Sadly, the very fabric of functional American families is crumbling.

Now is the time of prayer for the families of our country. Ask the Lord to grant strength, peace and guidance to families that are struggling each and every day.

## Why Pray for Our Youth?

The youth of today will grow up to lead 21st-century America. Each day they are bombarded by conflicting moral standards, violence and the latest media scandals.

In the midst of this turmoil, God is raising up an army of young people. They are not afraid to speak the truth in love, or to confront evil in their schools and communities.

Pray for the youth of America. Ask the Lord to make them bold in their faith. May He grant them the ability to work together in unity as they seek to light the nation with prayer.

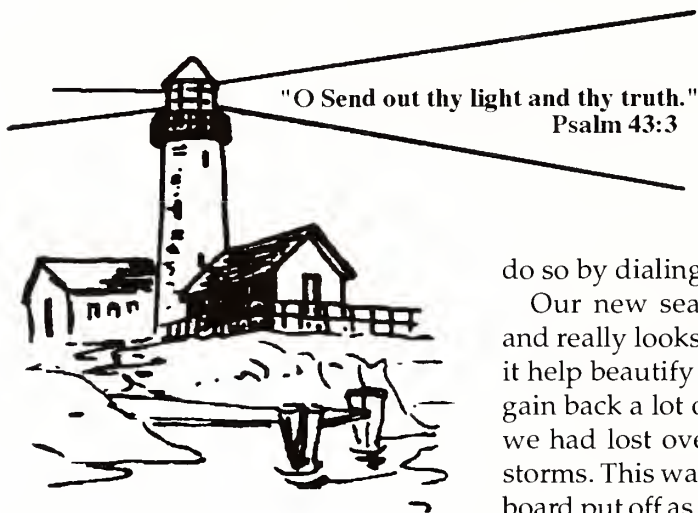


*The Annual*  
**NATIONAL  
DAY OF  
PRAYER**

# Camp Vandemere

## Our Family Enrichment Center

by Rev. Owen Arthur



Today, April 5, 1999, begins a new era for Camp Vandemere. We have hired our new manager, Mr. Mark Piner, who will be assisted by his wife, Sandi. In the near future Mark and Sandi will be moving to the camp and will be living on the campus full time. This will enable them to better coordinate the activities at the camp as well as be of greater service to our churches when they come to the camp. Today we met with Mr. Piner and drove down to the camp and took a tour of it. We talked about what needs to be done to get things ready for campers as well as other things that will need to be done later.

Mark and Sandi are members of Spring Hope Free Will Baptist Church near New Bern, where they are the youth directors. Both have been to the camp many times and have served as counselors, assisting Mrs. Eva Clark in her week. Sandi has been going to camp since she has been old enough to be a camper. They come with a good knowledge of what Camp Vandemere is all about. We invite you to come down, introduce yourselves to them, and

tell them where you are from. If you would like to call them and schedule an event, you may

do so by dialing 252-745-3171.

Our new sea wall is completed and really looks nice. Not only does it help beautify the campus, but we gain back a lot of the shore line that we had lost over time to the many storms. This was something that the board put off as long as they felt they could. It wasn't that we didn't want it done but was due to the great expenses that were involved. Please keep this in mind as you send your donations to the camp; we need your prayers and your financial support.

Please check the camp schedule in *The Free Will Baptist* and send us your young people this summer. We are excited about the Lord and what He is doing through our youth today. We have a couple of weeks still open if you would like to bring a group down for the week or even a few days. Just call Mark or Sandi at the number mentioned above.

Pray for the camp; this is a giant step we are taking. When we hired Aldric, we first hired him as a part-time manager; then we stepped out on faith and put him on staff year around. This was a big step, and the Lord blessed us and we met all our obligations with no problems. Now we are putting our new manager on staff year-round and moving them to the campus to live — this is an even bigger step. We need you to pray for Mark and Sandi as well as for the Camp. The board felt that it was time to offer the facilities of the camp to Free Will Baptists the entire year. People are coming to the Camp

more often and are using the facilities more than ever before. With heat and air conditioning in all the buildings, and with our manager living there to coordinate the activities, we can truly say that Camp Vandemere is now available year-round. If you haven't already done so, please put us in your budget. We are very grateful to the churches who have had fund raisers or received a special offering for us.

Many thanks to Smith's New Home for the pounding, Memorial for the revival, and Macedonia (eastern) for the lights of love. If your church has a special event for the camp, please let me know so we can acknowledge your efforts in one of our articles.

We have available to you our Lighthouse Keeper's Club. By being a part of this vital ministry, you will become a partner in the camp's vision to see lost people won to the Lord and saved people grow in His love and knowledge. When you apply, you will receive a decorative certificate symbolizing your support for the camp. After you have fulfilled your commitment, you will have the privilege of either sending one individual to any scheduled camp, or staying two nights in our family lodge, or spending one week in our camping facilities with water and electric hookup.

One may join by sending a donation of \$120. You may contribute on a monthly basis by donating \$10 for twelve months. When you send your check, please write on it "Lighthouse Keeper's Club" so our treasurer will know what your donation is for and we can send you your certificate.



## Camp Vandemere Schedule for 1999

May 28-31	Youth Mission Retreat Ray and Ginny Conner, Directors 167 Holly Springs Road Newport, NC 28570 252-223-4750
May 31-June 4	Open
June 4-5	Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat
June 7-11	Ralph Sumner, Director 571 Sumner Road Pink Hill, NC 28572 910-298-5885
June 14-18	Stanley Buck, Director 3200 Western Blvd. Tarboro, NC 27886 252-823-3964
June 21-25	Women's Week Audrey Quinn, Director 461 Wintergreen Road Cove City, NC 28523 252-638-6406
June 28-July 2	Jason Modlin, Director 634 Henderson Street Mount Olive, NC 28365 919-658-7170
July 5-9	Open
July 12-16	Joe Ratcliff, Director 6280 US Hwy 17-N Vanceboro, NC 28586 252-244-0207
July 19-23	Eva Mae Clark, Director 465 Half Moon Road New Bern, NC 28560 252-637-5346
July 26-30	Tim Heath, Director 601 Turkey Point Road Sneads Ferry, NC 28460 910-327-2850
August 7	All Day Gospel Sing

## Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat

Camp Vandemere, NC  
June 4-5, 1999

### Registration For SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

Each person planning to attend the retreat is requested to complete and return this form by May 1, 1999.

**Make checks for overnight accommodations payable to the State Layman's League (\$5.00).**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check appropriate blanks)

I plan to attend the retreat at Camp Vandemere on June 5, 1999.

I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere Friday night, June 4, 1999.

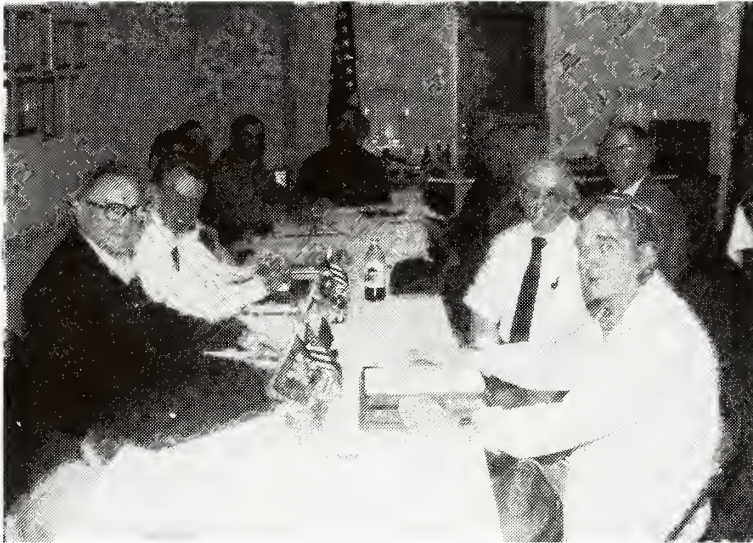
**Please return this form to:**

Mr. Robert Tripp  
305 Piney Neck Road, Vanceboro, NC 28586

### Layman's League Dates

May 7	State Layman's League, Marsh Swamp FWB Church, Rock Ridge, NC. 7:00 Meal, 7:45 Business
May 15	MOC Youth Convention (Murphy Center)
May 17	Eastern Conference Layman's League, Memorial FWB Church, 7:00
June 3	Executive Board, VFB Building, Snow Hill, NC 7:00 PM.
June 4-5	Spiritual Life Retreat, Camp Vandemere
June 7	Central Conference Layman's League, Ormondsville FWB Church, 7:00 Supper, 7:45 Business

# Layman's League



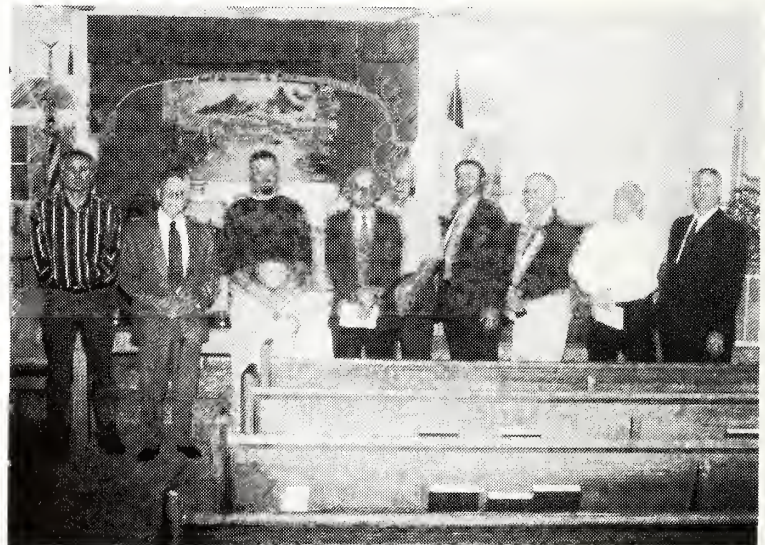
*Promotional and Executive Board*

On February 4, 1999, the Layman's League Promotional and Executive Board met at VFW building in Snow Hill, NC, to discuss new ideas to stimulate more interest in our existing Layman's League and chartering new leagues to get all our conferences active all across our state. A campaign is in the making that will hopefully involve all our Free Will Baptist churches through the motivation of our pastors and the fellowshiping of young and old alike. Many approaches have been suggested that we feel will spark this much needed effort. Through prayers, getting involved, inviting new men in your area to come fellowship, we feel more church members can be added to your church roll as this actually turns into a family affair as the wives and youth get inspired in their own church activities. Togetherness is what it is all about. Let's hope we can see more of your involvement. Come join in the fun.

State Layman's League president, (right) Elmer Harrell, spoke with the Hugo Free Will Baptist Church to express the goal and program involving their laymen in organizing a Layman's League. We are glad to see our churches' interest and participation in other activities which stimulate the growth and fellowship in order to walk closer with our Lord and be a light to shine as an example for others to follow.

Call Elmer at 747-2894 if you wish to make an appointment to arrange a presentation to organize your laymen.

*Hugo Free Will Baptist Church, pictured right.*



The State Layman's League is proud to announce the chartering of our latest layman's group at Whaley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church near Richlands. Let's get your church men's group together for great fellowshiping and development of a love for God and our fellowman.

*Whaley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, pictured left.*





O God, we pray for children from whom we expect too little and for those from whom we expect too much; for those who have too little to live on and for those with so much they appreciate little; for children

afflicted by want and for children afflicted by affluence in a society that defines them by what they have rather than by who they are — *Your loving precious gift.*

We pray for children who have no one to pray for them or protect and guide them and who are being abused or neglected right now by parents who themselves often were abused or neglected.

We pray to save our children's lives. To protect our children's dreams and rekindle our children's hopes. O God, we pray and work to rebuild our children's families and create a sense of community and security for our children. We pray to work and leave no child behind. Help us, Lord, for the child's sob in the silence cuts deeper than the sharpest blade.

## Boy's Emergency Shelter Opens

May will be the opening of our new emergency shelter, Canaan House, for boys. Property purchased in Bailey, NC, became the new emergency shelter, Genesis House, for girls. Both locations will accommodate children ages 0 to 18. Thanks to your donations, we were able to accomplish this need. Our greatest obligation to our children is to prepare them to understand and deal effectively with the world in which they are born and live. God bless each of you for caring about our children.



Canaan House for Boys  
Wilson, NC



Genesis House for Girls  
Bailey, NC

## May is Children's Home Month

"Change for Children '99"  
Help Us Keep The Doors  
Open...For Our Children

We request that you:

- Pray for the Children's Home ministry.
- Encourage each family in your church to save their change during Children's Home Month.
- Designate a Sunday in May as Children's Home Sunday.
- Support the Children's Home in the campaign.

The opportunity will:

- Encourage families to work together collecting their change.
- Provide youth and new members the opportunity to learn about the Children's Home.
- Increase awareness of your childcare ministry.
- Increase financial support from churches.
- If you have questions or would like more change bags, please call us at 252-235-2161.



*53rd Annual Homecoming*

*July 11, 1999*

*Free Will Baptist Children's Home*

*1999 Summer Camp Schedule*

**Minister's Conference**

*May 3-6, 1999*

Doug Skinner — (919) 596-2456  
817 Lynn Road, Durham, NC 27703

**June Woman's Auxiliary Conference**

*July 7-12, 1999*

Teresa Ball — (252) 524-4677  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Gifton, NC 28530

**Cragmont Youth Conference**

*June 14-19, 1999*

Bryant Hines — (252) 633-2683  
PO Box 266, Cove City, NC 28523

**Christian Cadet Conference**

*June 21-26, 1999*

Gary Bailey — (919) 735-3916  
112 Crosswinds Dr., Goldsboro, NC 27530

**Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)**

*June 28-July 3, 1999*

Janie Sowers — (252) 321-7542  
PO Box 824, Middlesex, NC 27557

**Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)**

*July 5-10, 1999*

Frankie Baggett — (252) 746-7850  
5403 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Ayden, NC 28513

**General Youth II Conference**

*July 12-17, 1999*

Chris Singleton — (910) 298-3520  
PO Box 162, Beulaville, NC 28518

**General Youth I Conference**

*July 19-24, 1999*

Bryant Hines — (252) 633-2683  
PO Box 266, Cove City, NC 28523

**Young People's Bible Conference**

*July 26-31, 1999*

James Gurganus — (252) 223-5251  
1317 Nine Foot Rd., Newport, NC 28570

**August Women's Auxiliary Conference**

*August 2-7, 1999*

Teresa Ball — (252) 524-4677  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Rd., Gifton, NC 28530



# Youth Frontier Conference

**YFA Week**

**Cragmont Assembly**

**June 28-July 3**

**For Those Ages 13 and Up**

There will be:

1. Lots of young people!
2. Counselors who care.
3. Bible studies, dorm devotions, vespers.
4. Trips, fun times, "happening" events, and lots of excitement.
5. Music, new friends, and more than we have room to describe!

YFAers will soon be traveling to Cragmont Assembly to attend the 1999 Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week. YFA Week is unique because it is the only encampment at Cragmont planned for just teenagers. This encampment is a time of fun and fellowship, a time of soul-searching and inspiration. This year's encampment is June 28-July 3.

The 1999 theme is **Mission Possible!** The program will feature concentrated Bible study and an emphasis on discipleship, recreation, missions/evangelism, and much more. The week will be a friendship/discipleship event, with the purpose of beginning or continuing the process of discipleship development in the lives of youth. And, during the week we also plan to spend a day at Carowinds!

To make sure that you are among those who attend YFA Week, mail the application below with a \$65 registration fee. Letters explaining what you need to carry to camp will be sent when your registration fee is received. The total cost of camp is \$215. This cost includes transportation, food and lodging at Cragmont, daily snacks, a group picture, the trip to Carowinds, activities, and a week of blessings! (Note, lunch on Monday and Saturday, as well as one meal on the trip day are not included in the cost of camp.) Checks should be made payable to Youth Frontier Conference/YFA Week.

### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration form and fee to: Janie Sowers  
Box 824, Middlesex, NC 27557; phone (252) 235-2408.





## THE CONNECTION



From the beginning of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism, it has always been our goal to win the lost, make disciples, plant churches, and to see the expansion of God's Kingdom. Every phase of growth for Home Missions and Evangelism has been and will continue to be connected to each local church and their prayer and sacrificial giving. A careful review of Home Missions' history clearly shows that Original Free Will Baptist's expanding vision led to the expanding of God's Kingdom. We can G.R.O.W. (Go Reach Our World — USA) and move forward according to the level of our **Giving, Praying, Caring, and Sharing**.

More than ever, God is helping us to understand how to effectively obey His call to witness and His call to the Harvest. Great opportunities have opened the Homefront Missions.

- Our newest missionary family — The Rev. Wayne Watson and his wife Darlene, will be serving in Mooresville, North Carolina (Mooresville Free Will Baptist Church Mission/Church) beginning in May. This new field of service is located in a multi-county area with a population base of 500,000.
- Sunrise Landing Mission/Church at Point Harbor (Outer Banks), North Carolina is now having Bible Study groups to meet.
- Spanish Missions — Beaufort, Calypso, and other Eastern North Carolina communities.
- Youth Evangelism — Project Kids Kare, Challenge 2000 and SMILE Club — (Student Missions Institute of Leadership and Evangelism).
- Celebrate Jesus 2000 — Lighthouse of Prayer and Canning Hunger.

The dynamic ministries of Home Missions and Evangelism, under the umbrella of *The Harvest Connection*, are now poised to boldly move into the 21st Century and a new millennium. Your local church is a vital part of every Home Missions effort to **Pray, Care, and Share** the gospel with every individual in our state and nation. To God be the glory for the great things He has done, is doing, and will accomplish as we continue in partnership.

### Certificate of Recognition Presented

Richard Ethan Bush received the "God and Me" medallion and Certificate of Recognition during the morning worship service, Sunday, February 14, 1999 at Crab Point Free Will Baptist Church, Morehead

City, North Carolina. The award is presented to Cub Scouts for taking significant steps in religious growth. Ethan completed the "God and Me" Student Workbook and the projects contained therein to qualify for this award. The award was presented by the Rev. Clifford B. Harwood, Jr.

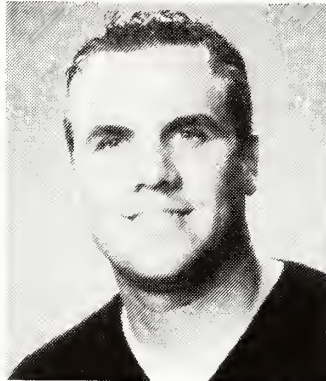
Ethan is a member of Bear Den 6, Pack 61, Newport, North Carolina. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Bush, Jr., and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Buck, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Bush, Sr.



(Left to right): Ethan's Daddy and den leader; Richard E. Bush, Jr., Ethan, and the Rev. Harwood.



Passion  
Visionary  
Leader  
Communicator



These are the words used by some of the greatest leaders in Christianity today to describe Stuart Hall. Combining a passion for those who need to know Jesus Christ personally and a vision to see students become the leaders God created them to be, Stuart Hall is making a mark in the lives of students across America. Stuart believes strongly in empowering students to reach their friends, and his unique blend of humor and powerful application makes him one of America's best student communicators.

A high school football and basketball standout, Stuart gave his life to Jesus Christ at the age of nineteen after a freshman year at the University of Alabama that saw him injured and unable to play basketball. He transferred to Mobile College and was a member of the GCAC and District 31 championship team that finished 31-3 and ranked 12th in America. During that year, through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Stuart began to speak and minister to middle school and high school students. "God broke my heart for teenagers and gave me an insatiable passion to see them fulfill their purpose in life. That purpose is to know God and to make Him known," he says, "And life is futile until we understand and live in that realization."

In October of 1997, Stuart and his family accepted God's call on their lives to become Director of Student Leadership for Reach Out Youth Solutions. Stuart has quickly become a much sought after camp, conference, and public school assembly communicator, and his focus and passion in these environments is to motivate, challenge, and equip students to become spiritually influential. He believes that depth of character and intimacy with God is the crucial trait for width of personal spiritual influence. He is in the process of authoring several books that will motivate and equip students to become spiritually influential.

Sponsored by Home Missions and Evangelisms  
The Harvest Connection

## Youth Camp — Harvest Time and Exciting Times

Heavenly Hills Camp in Twain Harte, California was the site for the H'mong Youth Camp 1998. It was an exciting time and Harvest Time as 100 youth gathered for Bible Study and activities. Much fruit for the Lord came forth with 26 candidates for baptism. Home Missions provided scholarships in the amount of \$50.00 each for eight youth. Six of the recipients received Christ and were baptized.

Will you join us in reaching more youth with \$50.00 scholarships for Youth Camp 1999. Your sponsorship will Touch Lives For Now and Eternity. To participate in this Sponsorship Scholarship Program forward your check to Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Please indicate your gift for Youth Camp '99. For more information contact Dr. A. Graham Lane at 252-637-9638 or 252-638-6384



### SPONSORSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

\_\_\_ Yes, I/We would like to help a needy youth to attend a Christ-centered summer camp.

I/We would like to provide \_\_\_\_\_ sponsor scholarship/s at \$50 each.

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Make check payable to: Home Missions and Evangelism for: Sponsorship Scholarship.*

Name (Individual or Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## 1999 Distinguished Citizen

Dr. W. Burkette Raper, director of planned giving at Mount Olive College, was recently named the Torhunta District of the Boy Scouts of America 1999 Distinguished Citizen. Surrounded by family, friends, and colleagues, Raper was bestowed this high honor at a banquet in early April at Walnut Creek County Club in Goldsboro. Individual speakers shared their views of Raper as a dedicated family man, a devoted Free Will Baptist, a good community citizen and an outstanding supporter of education.

The Rev. Burke Raper, oldest son of Dr. and Mrs. Raper, recalled growing up with his father. He reminisced about their daily bike rides together and his father's ability to eagerly share advice with his children.

Dr. Michael Pelt, professor emeritus of Mount Olive College, shared a different view of Raper. He noted the significant contributions Raper has made over the years to the Original Free Will Baptist Church and to Mount Olive College. "Having become president of the college at the young age of 26, Dr. Raper has devoted nearly two-thirds of his life to Mount Olive College and over 50 years to the ministry," Pelt recalled.

Gene Price, editor emeritus of the Goldsboro *News-Argus*, delivered remarks concerning Raper's service to Wayne County. Price noted Raper's ability to use his community ties to raise money for the College and in turn use the College's resources to assist community organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America. "Raper made sure the community knew the College always appreciated their help in furthering higher education in Wayne County," Price said.

The Honorable H. Martin Lancaster, president of the North Carolina Community College System, shared his perspective of Raper as an outstanding supporter of higher education. He credited Raper for being the only president of an independent college or university to speak out in favor of community colleges forming the North Carolina Community College System. Lancaster told of Raper addressing the NC General Assembly concerning financial aid for in-state college students. Lancaster also noted the

bonds Raper has formed with community colleges so their graduates could pursue bachelor's degrees at Mount Olive College. At the close of Lancaster's remarks, Raper was presented with a self-portrait.



## Coming Events at Mount Olive College

### State Youth Bible Bowl

**Saturday, May 1 • 8:00 AM • Rodgers Chapel**

The Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptist will hold their annual State Youth Bible Bowl at Mount Olive College. For more information, contact Martha Parsons at (910) 486-4636 or Angela Warren at (910) 567-5082.

### Graduation Day, Saturday, May 8

Commencement Worship Service  
Graduation Ceremony

10:30 AM • Rodgers Chapel  
2:00 PM • College Hall

### FWB State Youth Convention

**Friday-Monday, May 14-17 • Mount Olive College Campus**

The Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will hold their annual youth convention at Mount Olive College. For more information, contact Martha Parsons at (910) 486-4636 or Angela Warren at (910) 567-5082.

### Sunday Buffet

**Sunday, 11:30 AM • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

Mount Olive College invites you to our weekly Sunday Buffet. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 years old and under (includes tax, beverage, dessert.)



## *Forty-Fifth Spring Commencement to Take Place at Mount Olive College*

Approximately 260 students will receive degrees at Mount Olive College's 45th Spring Commencement on Saturday, May 8.

Commencement worship service will take place at 10:30 AM in Rodgers Chapel with Dr. De Wayne Eakes as the guest speaker. Eakes, a Goldsboro native, is currently the pastor of Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church in Lucama. He is also a religion instructor at Mount Olive College at Goldsboro.

Dr. Eakes earned his associate's degree from Mount Olive College in 1967, his bachelor's degree from Atlantic Christian College (Barton) in 1969, and his master's and doctorate degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1976 and 1990. He has served as president and vice president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist. Dr. Eakes has also been a member of the Western Conference Board of Ordination, Cragmont Assembly,

Inc. Board, Free Will Baptist Press Board, and Mount Olive College Board of Trustees.

Graduation exercises will take place at 2:00 PM in College Hall with Chairman of the North Carolina State Board of Education, Phillip J. Kirk, Jr., as the speaker. Kirk was appointed to the State Board of Education by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. in 1997. Kirk is a native of Rowan County and a graduate of Catawba College. He serves as president and secretary of the NC Citizens of Business and Industry. He is also the publisher of North Carolina Magazine. His extensive list of governmental positions includes serving as Chief of Staff for two former governors and a United States senator. He also served in the NC General Assembly and was the youngest state senator in history at the time of his election. A former English and journalism teacher, Mr. Kirk has a remarkable background in education, having been named



*Dr. Phillip J. Kirk, Jr., chairman of the North Carolina Board of Education and Mount Olive College's May 1999 Commencement Speaker.*

Salisbury Teacher of the year and having received the Friend of Education award by the Professional Educators of North Carolina. In addition, he served as the vice chair of the State Board of Community Colleges, treasurer of Smart Start, and the chair-elect of the Public School Forum.

## *Students' Focus on World Hunger*

Gathering around the cross for the closing prayer, students at Mount Olive College are reminded of God's love and compassion for humanity as the Chapel service concluded on March 23 with a focus on world hunger. Miss Sandy Flowers, minister of youth and children at the First Baptist Church in Mount Olive, spoke on world hunger, reminding the students and faculty that 34,000 under the age of five die each day worldwide resulting from hunger and hunger related diseases; 160 million children worldwide under the age of five are malnourished, and that one out of every eight children in the United States under the age of 12 goes to bed hungry every night.

Following the Chapel service, students were invited to a lunch that consisted only of a bowl of rice and water which was the meal of the day for millions of people in the world.

An offering was received in Chapel that will be used to help relieve world hunger, with a reminder from Jesus who said to His disciples, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).



*Mount Olive College students gather around a wooden cross outside Rodgers Chapel to pray for world hunger, an issue that affects billions of people.*



## *Bailey Speaks at Mount Olive College*

Dr. A. Purnell Bailey, a syndicated Christian columnist, addressed students, staff, faculty and special guests at Mount Olive College on Tuesday, April 6, in Rodgers Chapel. In his inspirational message, Dr. Bailey concentrated on the customs of Jesus as recorded in the fourth Chapter of Luke... He went to church, He read the Scripture, He prayed, and He went about doing good. Dr. Bailey challenged Mount Olive College students to exhibit these same customs. He compared the students to flowers in a tropical region, "You (the students of Mount Olive College) have all the capabilities and resources available to you to bloom and reach your full potential, I challenge you to reach your full potential."

In closing, Dr. Bailey stated that "Jesus was anointed to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, to recover sight to the blind, and to set at liberty those that were bruised."

Dr. Bailey has been a syndicated columnist since 1945. His column "Daily Bread" has appeared in newspapers throughout the United States, as well as Japan. He is president of the National Temple Ministries, Inc., of Arlington, Virginia, and an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church. Dr. Bailey has served as chief of the United Methodist Chaplains around the world and as vice-president of the National Methodist Foundation. He has been a chaplain for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and Virginia General Assembly. Dr. Bailey was educated at Randolph-Macon College, Duke Divinity School, and Union Theological Seminary. In 1979, he was a resident researcher at Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem.

In 1985, while presenting the Mount Olive College Pierson Lecture, Dr. Bailey was so impressed with the students and administration at Mount Olive College that he announced he would donate a portion of his personal library (approximately 200 books) to Mount Olive College's Moye

Library. Since 1985 the College has received an additional 300 volumes. Upon his death, Dr. Bailey has also graciously arranged for the College to receive the remainder of his personal library, as well as an endowment to perpetuate the collection. The books have been designated the "Ruth and Purnell Bailey Collection."



*Dr. A. Purnell Bailey (second from front right), national syndicated Christian columnist poses with Mount Olive College faculty, administrators, and religion students. (l-r front) Dr. K. David Hines, chair of department of religion; Dr. W. Burkette Raper, director of planned giving; Dr. J. William Bryd, president of Mount Olive College; Dr. A. Purnell Bailey; and Frank R. Harrison. (l-r middle) John Hill, Marci Rollins, JoAnn Turner, Clair Taylor, David Allen, and Kristin Gibson. (l-r back) Tommy Yopp, Joey Williams, Scott Satterfield, Michael Quintas, Rodney Dawson, and Jason Young.*

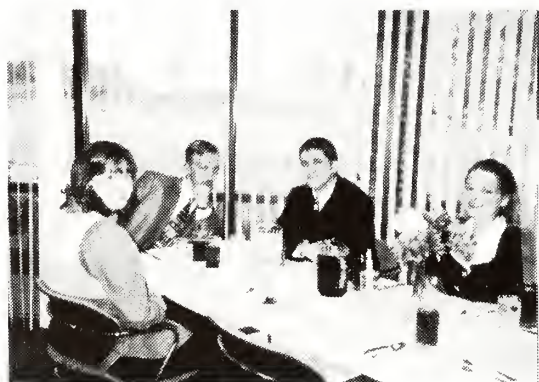




## *Mount Olive College Honor Students Recognized*

Mount Olive College Honor students were recently recognized at the Annual Honors Banquet sponsored by the Alpha Chi National Honor Society. Mount Olive resident, Emil Cekada, addressed the group. In his lecture entitled "The Matter of Honor" Cekada discussed the changing definitions of honor. He also stressed the importance of high honor and higher education to the students.

According to Nancy Costa, Honors Program Sponsor, "The matter of honor is something vitally important at Mount Olive College. Honor is not just a society membership and it is not just implied in our motto, 'Higher Learning, Higher Standards, Higher Values.' Honor should be an integral part of all facets of life at Mount Olive College, from the classrooms, to the ball courts, to the concert hall. My challenge to the Mount Olive College Honor Students is not just to think of honor, but to take the matter of honor with them wherever they go and in whatever they do."



*(Pictured l-r) Enjoying the recent Honors Banquet at Mount Olive College are honor students Carla McLamb, senior from Shady Grove FWB Church; Mike McCoy, junior from Cove City; Anthony Bennet, junior from Antioch FWB Church in Craven County; and Tracy Wheeler, senior from First FWB Church of Wilson.*

## *Christian Ministries Program Growing*

Christian Ministries Cohort number one from Wilmington recently visited the Mount Olive campus for dinner in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, followed by a library orientation session with Mr. Gary Barefoot. The Rev. Tyanna Day is the advisor for the cohort.

This is the third cohort to begin the recently developed Christian Ministries modular program. The first cohort met at Mount Olive, followed by one in New Bern and one in Wilmington. The fourth cohort began in Mount Olive in April.

The Christian Ministries modular program provides a unique opportunity for students to prepare for a Christian vocation. In sixty-two weeks the students will complete the required courses in Religion that will contribute toward a Bachelor of Science in Christian Ministries. This is another avenue through which Mount Olive College is seeking to serve the Church by preparing men and women to answer God's call to service.



## *Summer Sessions Begin May 24*

Summer school at Mount Olive College will be conducted in two summer sessions. Session A, scheduled for May 24 through June 25, will offer 51 courses. Session B, scheduled for June 28 through July 30, will offer 24 courses. Some courses being offered are: public speaking, New Testament, graphic design, marriage and family, contemporary moral issues, college math, and photography.

Summer classes meet one hour and fifty minutes, five days a week. The cost is \$100 per semester credit hour. Room and board, including one meal per day, is \$425 for each five-week session.

Accelerated general education classes are being offered in English, math, religion, and history. These classes meet one night a week for six weeks. Times and dates vary. For more information about specific courses being offered or to register, contact the Mount Olive College Admissions Office at (919) 658-2505 or (800) 653-0854.



## Follow Jesus

by Janan

Willem very seldom writes about himself. Many people of his age are retired and not working anymore.



Every Sunday we have a devotional Bible study at our home. We are very blessed by these studies, because they

teach us the truth which is in Jesus Christ. They help us to know more about God, who is our Father in Jesus Christ. Mama was a very devoted Musselman teacher for women and she said not long ago: "Since Willem and Lydia came to our home to pray and to teach the Bible, I feel I am out of the darkness. Many things are more clear to me than ever."

Sometimes Willem is tired about complications which occur unexpectedly. His tasks and responsibilities are not few and not light. Difficult problems he solves by sincere prayers and by playing his organ. In this way he finds peace and strength to go on, even in the most difficult circumstances. He never gives up to think about matters which were not solved before.

He writes reports about the work of others, never of himself. He speaks in the work about "we" when goals have been reached and a task is accomplished. We do not write about him often, but we know for sure: "If that man had not been brought to us we all should live a total different life."

He is a man with very rich experiences. To him we are able to explain our ideas how to develop the ministry we are placed in. Our sorrows we share with him.

Sometimes I think: "After so many years of hard work with so many different people he should have some time to serve a nice church in a more peaceful environment, without all the problems which he faces here in this country."

Just to pastor the congregation without fear for visa and the threats of the police who investigate his activities regularly is difficult. One day I told him and his answer was: "Did Jesus chose the easiest way? He didn't. So we have to follow Him!"

He always prays a lot for other people and he is very happy when he knows that people pray for him. He is not demanding much for himself and shows that his life is in his ministry.

We love you all and we ask you: "Please pray for Willem, because his task here is surely not easy!" We all greet you with great love and thankfulness.

## An Urgent Request

Dear Friends,

As you know a great human tragedy is unfolding in Europe today. Hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians are being forced from their homes in Kosovo by a ruthless dictator. I know your heart goes out to these people.

A refugee camp is being set up in Bulgaria, about 60 miles from where Willem and Lydia van der Plas (our missionaries to Bulgaria) are located. I have talked with Willem and we believe as a Board and Church that we must help. We have personnel in Bulgaria, including a medical doctor and other capable staff to aid in the endeavor. This is an international relief effort and naturally falls under the responsibility of the Board of Foreign Missions. If we did not have people in Bulgaria, we would direct the funds to other reputable relief agencies.

We welcome your gifts to help purchase food, clothing, and medicine. This will be handled by our workers and every dollar you send will go directly to Bulgaria for the refugees.

Thank you for your response.

Serving Him,

Harold Jones, Director/Treasurer

(Cut out the portion below  
and return it with your gift)

For Kosovo refugee aid:

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Make check payable to:  
Board of Foreign Missions)

# May



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SUN	MON	TUE	
25	26	27	29
2	3	4 Mount Olive College Board of Trustees	5
<b>Minister's Conference at Cragmont</b>			
9  <i>Mother's Day</i>	10	11 Foreign Missions Board Meeting	12 Church
<b>Eastern Conference Training</b>			
16  <b>State Youth Convention</b>	17 Cragmont Board Meeting  Eastern Conference District Layman's League Meeting Memorial OFWB Church Chocowinity, NC	18 FWB Press Board Meeting  Retirement Homes Ministry Board Meeting	19
23 Children's Home Anniversary (79 Years)  MOC Scholarship Day	24 MOC Summer Session A Begins  <i>Memorial Day</i> FWB Press Closed FWB Bookstores Open Headquarters Closed	25	26





## *The Greatest Commandment*

**(Mandate from the Lord Jesus Christ)**

by Eder M. Peralta

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19–20).

These verses are familiar. But there is a question: What do they mean to us? For me, I accepted them as a great commandment, and therefore a great responsibility. I thank God for giving me a burden to reach out to lost souls. Sharing the gospel must be done in season or out of season. This great commandment needs continuous fulfillment, especially in these last days.

Brethren, let us work together, redeeming the time for the coming of the Lord is getting nearer. Let us share Jesus Christ and teach them all things, whatsoever God commands us to do.

Let the power of the Holy Spirit be manifested in our lives. Let us tell the truth with power and authority. Do not be afraid, for He has promised to be with us always, even unto the end of the earth.”



## *Institutional Evangelism*

by Zacarias Perocillo

Since the beginning of the missionary work of the Free Will Baptist Church in the Philippines, the church has been practicing house-to-house visitations, home Bible study, and occasionally public evangelistic crusade. The first two in our experience are more effective in bringing people to the church. This time, however, we are having institutional type of evangelistic approach.

As you will see from these pictures, one of our pioneering pastors, Pastor Salili in Dipolog City, engaged in evangelism to high school students in that city and one hundred of them received the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour despite the fact that it was a rainy day. Thus, you can see people using their umbrella while listening to our pastor preaching.



I have been emphasizing house-to-house evangelistic approach to evangelize, and this institutional type of evangelism is a prelude to a house-to-house approach — follow-up. And in the follow-up, since we Filipinos are clannish, students become the channel in approaching

cont...



***Institutional Evangelism, Cont...***

their parents, sisters, brothers, friends, and relatives for the gospel presentation.

Also, here in the Visayas and Mindanao for years now, we are evangelizing the different hospitals in our city, visiting the sick as private hospital chaplains, preaching at the different police stations, and jail visitation ministry by many of our pastors assigned in different cities. In Cebu City this writer practices guidance and counseling. Counselees with all types of problems either come to the house personally, or call by phone for counseling. Relatives of the counselees also come to the house for the same reason, thus reaching them is made easier for the gospel.

So our greatest need is the production of pastors who can follow-up effectively the sympathizers who come to our pastors, because of their different needs. And of course, discipling sympathizers who already start to come to our church gatherings.

To disciple them not only to make them submit for baptism, but also on stewardship of substance and time,

so they can support our church when our foreign support is finally cut. In short, so they can support the church not only financially, but will become pastors and missionaries for local and foreign countries. Right now Filipinos are going out of the Philippines in search of greener pastures. Our country is in great depression, many are hungry and sick physically and mentally because of distribution of illegal drugs.

In view of these problems, we're strengthening our fellow pastors to take advantage of the situation of preaching the gospel. When they go anywhere in this world, they too will become a witness to the gospel just like the early disciples when they were scattered because of the problems around them. Also, since some of us in the leadership are getting older, the younger pastors will be made ready to take our respective places, and therefore the works of God in our country will continue progressing regardless of problems and difficulties. In fact, we are smiling at the problems. First, because we know that the Almighty is behind us. He can even turn our problems into channels of blessings. But we need to be praying and not just smiling.

***Graduation '98***

**by Rev. Dario S. Basingil**

Last December 10, 1998, we had our first Layman Leadership Training graduation held at Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, Calawag, Taytay, Palawan.

We had eight people who had satisfactorily completed their training: Brothers' Gorgonia Mate, Nehemias Pepito, Abundio Roxas, Eduardo Sabarle, Guillermo Umasdang, and Sisters' Elizabeth Roxas, Rosalia Sabarle, and Vicky Villacarlos.

Five of them are handling a local church: Brother Gorgonia Mate assigned in Sitio Topet, Barangay Bantulan, Taytay, Palawan; Brother Guillermo Umasdang in Barangay Malibong Bong, Taytay, Palawan; Brother Abundio Roxas in Minapla, Taytay, Palawan; Brother Nehemias Pepito in San Lorenzo, Taytay, Palawan to assist the Rev. Pio dela Rosa; and Brother Eduardo Sabarle and his wife in Patmos Free Will Baptist Church, Icadambanua, Taytay, Palawan.



The Rev. Fide Pres, the Palawan Bible College President, was our guest speaker.

***Child Dedication***

**by Rev. Dario S. Basingil**

On December 10, 1998, some parents brought their children to church to be dedicated to the Lord. The Scripture says, let the child come to Him and do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

The Rev. Dario S. Basingil officiated this Child Dedication. They had five children dedicated to the Lord during North District Christmas party. They were Talyn Lucero, Jasper D. Bargamento, Naice B. Galapin, Jimboy Anlap, and Leonel Parreño.

All of these parents recognized their sacred obligation and their responsibility to God in this matter.



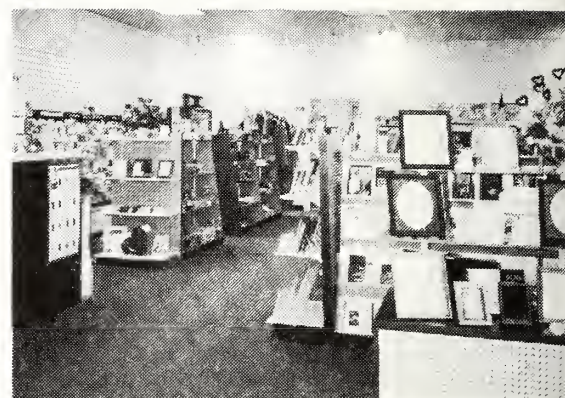


## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Grand Reopening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the new Wilson Bible and Bookstore was held on March 2, 1999. The Bookstore, owned and operated by the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, was originally located in the Brendle's Shopping Center, and recently moved to its new location in the Kmart shopping center area.



Those participating in the ceremony were: (l-r) the Rev. Billy Hardee, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press; the Rev. C. H. Overman, editor, Emma Cayton, sales associate; Mrs. Frances Davis, manager of the Wilson store; Mr. R. Clifford Gray, executive director of the Free Will Baptist Press; Mrs. Ollie Rodgerson, sales associate; Mrs. Lexine Davis, bookstore coordinator. (Not pictured: Darren Davenport, manager Ayden Bible and Bookstore, and Mrs. Billy Hardee.)



*Views from inside the New Bookstore.*



## VBS Workshop

Oak Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Bladenboro, NC, served as host of a Vacation Bible School Workshop on March 9. The workshop was conducted by Mrs. Lexine Davis, bookstore coordinator of the Free Will Baptist Press, and Darren Davenport, manager of Ayden Bible and Bookstore.

Five churches from the Pee Dee Association were represented in the workshop. They included: Charity, Oak Grove, Mount Calvary, Cypress Creek, and White Oak. The pastor of the host church is the Rev. Billy Hardee.



Mrs. Lexine Davis speaks to the VBS Workshop participants.



Participants look over the VBS material.



# People & Events

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT  
THE DENOMINATION



## *Holly Springs Church Raises Funds for Vandemere*



A check for \$500.00 was presented by the Sunday school class of Holly Springs Original Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, NC, to Owen Arthur. The class sponsored a pancake supper to raise funds for Camp Vandemere.

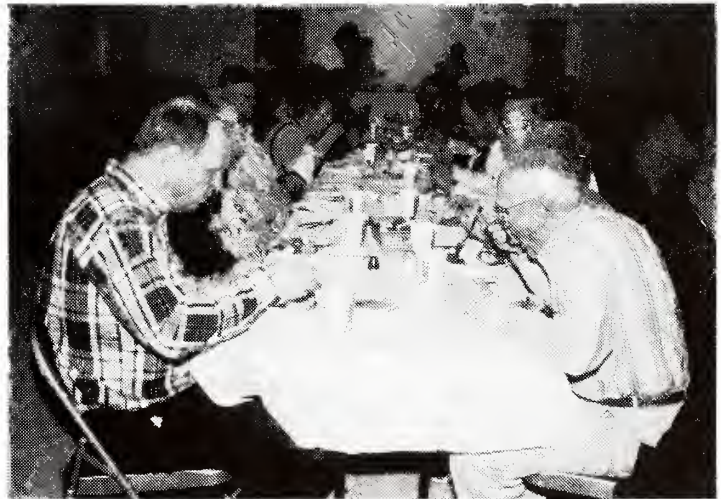
The Ladies' Sunday school class of Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, hosted the meeting of the Board of Directors of Camp Vandemere on February 5.



Pastor Ray Conner presented a check for \$750.00 from Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church.

## *Literature Committee Meets*

The Literature Committee of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention met on February 20, in the fellowship hall of the First Free Will Baptist Church, Kinston. Pictured (l-r) are: Hilda Starling, Jane Tripp (Piney Grove Church), Nina Grace Register (co-compiling editor of *Devotion*), Hilda Sasser, Rose Williams, and Jane Tripp (King's Cross Roads Church).



Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal that included clam chowder and homemade rolls.

## *Stewardship Study Course Held*

The Eastern District of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention sponsored a Stewardship Study Course on February 6, at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston, NC. Mrs. Deborah King from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Wilson, conducted the study course. Twenty-three churches were represented with a total of 100 in attendance.



### Minister's Mid-Year Spiritual Life Banquet

More than 50 ministers and their wives gathered at Bill's Barbeque, Wilson, NC, on February 19, 1999, for the Mid-Year Spiritual Life Banquet. Everyone enjoyed the Buffet prepared by Bill's. The Rev. Harold Swinson, president, welcomed everyone, reminding them to attend the Cragmont Minister's Conference in May.

Dr. David Hines, Chairman of the Department of Religion at Mount Olive College, along with Johnny Sullivan from Daniel's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, presented a program consisting of both contemporary and old-fashioned gospel hymns.



Johnny Sullivan (at the keyboard) with Dr. David Hines.



Banqueting Together

### King's Cross Roads Church Plans Old Time Revival

Revival Services will begin Sunday night, April 11, at Kings Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church and continue through Friday night, April 16. The Sunday night service will begin at 7:00 PM and the services Monday through Friday night will begin at 7:30 PM.

The Rev. Leon Harris, Pastor of Rose Hill Free Will Baptist Church of Winterville, NC will be the guest Evangelist, and there will be special singing each evening.

The pastor, Rev. Bruce Jones, and congregation extend to you a very cordial invitation attend an "Old-Time Revival," "old-time" in length, with an "old-time preacher," with an "old-time Bible," with an "old-time faith," preaching an "old-time religion," looking for "old-time Christians," with an "old-time commitment," and believing God for "old-time results."

The Church is locate about 10 miles west of Greenville, between Farmville and Falkland at 2080 Seven Pines Road, Fountain, NC.

### What About Christian Belief and Convictions?

by the Rev. Mott Batchelor, Pastor  
First Free Will Baptist Church, Plymouth, NC

I read an article in the *News and Observer* on Sunday, February 21, by Alen Scher Zagier. It was about Tamir Goodman, a seventeen-year-old Yeshiva student and basketball star. I liked the article and what it had to say about the young man. I admire Tamir very much for his stand on religious beliefs. What disturbed me, and I believe should disturb all born-again Christians, is that the University of Maryland, whom Tamir has signed with, is petitioning the NCAA and the ACC to allow them to play an altered scheduled so they can accommodate Tamir's religious beliefs. Friday evening and Saturday games would be limited. May I say this is fine with me, but, where does this leave Christians? If a major college were to petition the ACC and the NCAA about not playing a Sunday schedule to accommodate a Christian, how far would the petition get before being laughed at? This young man has taken a stand and I am glad he has. I ask the Christian community, isn't it time for us to take a stand? We lost the right to have a public prayer and Christian devotions in the public school because of apathy. Now we have a Jewish student who will not play on the Sabbath Day and we are expected to accommodate him. I say, "fine," but when will Christians be accommodated? When are Christians going to stand up for their beliefs?



### *FWB League Convention*

The FWB League is on the move! Join us as we travel to Aspen Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Fountain, North Carolina for our State Convention on Saturday, April 17, 1999. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and the convention convenes at 10:00 AM.

This year the League will be traveling to old familiar stops like the Sword Drill and new exciting places with special entertainment by a guest choir. Interwoven with these stops there will be a layover in John 15:19 for traveling directions to our theme destination, "Out of This World." Pack up and join us for a great day in the Lord — April 17, 1999 at Aspen Grove!

~ • ~ • ~ • ~

Churches who register with a \$25 fee are invited to enter contestants in the Sword Drill at the Junior, Intermediate, and adult levels. There is no limit on the number of entries for each church.

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If you are attending the Free Will Baptist Youth Convention on May 15, 1999, be sure and keep 1:00 PM open for a enjoyable visit with the Free Will Baptist League in Rodgers Chapel, Mount Olive College. Experience and exciting exhibition of the Sword Drill; remember the "good old days" with the skit, "My Heritage."



### *Heritage Day Stancil's Chapel*

### *Original Free Will Baptist Church*

April 17, 1999 • 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM

NC Hwy 42

(Near the Intersection of NC Hwy 222)

Yard Sale, Old Timey Games, Play Checkers at the

Country Store, and Face Painting

Visit the OFWB, Community Service,

Christian Wear and Home Interior Booths

Lots of Food, Baked Goods

and Refreshments

We hope to see you there!



## **Yes, you can go to Cragmont. There is a way!**

Can't afford the cost of an entire trip or have only partial funds, *The Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund* can help. Ages 8 to 18 can apply. Fill out the following application and return by May 30, 1999 to Ellen Forlines, 2907 Ellsworth Drive, Greenville, NC 27834-4915. Recipients will be notified as soon as possible by the committee.

### **Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund Cragmont Trip Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church Attending \_\_\_\_\_

(For the child) Why would you like to go to Cragmont?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(For the person referring the child) Give a brief statement of need.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Circle the week you would like to attend.**

YFA Week — June 28–July 3, 1999 (Ages 13 to 18)

AFC Week — July 5–10, 1999 (Ages 8–13)

Referring Party \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Trips to Cragmont are sponsored annually by the Christian Fellowship Class of the Winterville Free Will Baptist Church through the Wayne Vincent Endowment Fund.*

## People & Events

### *Spring Branch Honors Fire and EMS Personnel cont....*

us to be able to lie down at night or go about our daily routines knowing you are just a call away. Twenty-four hours a day, we know that you are there, ready to respond, with expert care and help in time of need.

"I believe just as God called me to preach, He called each of you to serve in the capacity you do. There are only a select few men and women who can, and will, do what you do. And you do it strictly on a volunteer basis, for the good of your fellow man. Each time you answer the call, you are literally putting your life on the line for others. The service you provide is mostly overlooked until someone has a crisis and needs you. And sadly, many times even then, people are more prone to find fault than to give praise.

"Very few people within the community realize the sacrifice you make to be able to give them the best possible care you can. You give of your time: time without sleep, time away from family, often missing important activities in life to answer a call. You give of yourself to training — to better yourself and your departments to be able to handle any situation. You give of your emotions as you watch helplessly when there is nothing you can do. We want to show our gratitude tonight for sacrifices you make so unselfishly for our welfare."

The church then made a contribution to each Fire Department and each Rescue Squad. We want to encourage the churches in our denomination to make an effort to honor the departments in their area and let them know we appreciate their contribution to the community.



L to R: the Rev. Walt Tyndall, Steve Ellis (Fountain VFD Chief), George Bell (Fountain EMS Captain), Charles Gill (Saratoga VFD Chief), John Craft (Walstonburg VFD Chief) and Ricky Davis (Walsontonburg EMS Chief).

### *CEC Center Dedicated*

Stoney Creek FWB Church held an Open House and Dedication Service for its new Christian Education Center (CEC) on February 21, 1999. Open House was held for the community from 5 until 7 PM. At seven o'clock a worship service was held in the church sanctuary in which the CEC was dedicated to God.

The CEC is an 18,000 square foot nursery and classroom building which rises three floors. Construction began in March 1998 and was completed in January 1999. January 31 was the first Sunday the building was used by the church.

The total cost of the building project was \$1.5 million. The church has raised over one third of the money with the remaining amount being financed. This building effectively doubled the space available to the church and has enabled Stoney Creek FWB Church to continue to grow. The Rev. Gary M. Bailey is the pastor. Mr. R. Wes Boyd is the youth director. The people of the church praise the Lord for His great blessings.



### *15 Years of the Smith Family Music Ministry*

by Rita Otto Jones

Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church of Clayton was filled to the brim on Saturday evening, March 27, as the *Smith Family* came to celebrate fifteen years of singing the gospel. We had many visitors as well as home folks and everyone received a blessing.

In Youth activities for the month, on Friday evening, March 5, the older youth enjoyed a meeting with guest speakers, teenagers Amber Perry and Jason Sherman. The next evening, the youth group attended the Youth Rally and received a banner as well as a first-place award in the AFC Talent category (Summer Davis). Summer's sister, Kristen Davis, received second place in the YFA Talent. Cherub Katlyn cont....



## 15 Years of the Smith Family Music Ministry cont....

Howell also received a second place award for talent. All of the entries for the youth competition were presented to the congregation at the evening service on March 14. We are all pleased to see their hard work and praise for God.

It was a blessing this month to see Bunk and Alice Cole return following his sickness and surgery. He thanked the church for the cards, calls, visits, and most of all prayers. "You just don't know how many friends you have 'til you go through something like this," he told the church. "I felt like a teenager when the doctor

released me to drive again, it had seemed so long."

Spring Revival took place the week before Easter with the Rev. Rudy Owens bringing the message. We appreciate him sharing and visiting with us. Special music was enjoyed each night. It was especially good to see Barbara & J.E. Barbour back after their car accident and able to give praise in song.

Vicky Bagley is working again this year to raise money for the Johnston County Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society and is accepting contributions. She

continues her fight even as we learn of more members who have begun a cancer fight of their own. Remember Allen Price, Clifton Markham, and Annie Mae Allen in your prayers as well as sister Vicky.

With Memorial Day coming up, also remember all those who gave their lives in service of our country and all those who are now being sent to foreign battles to defend freedom and help the persecuted. Pray for wisdom for our leaders to not send troops in harm's way unless it is unavoidable.

## Mount Zion Church Experiences His Blessings

by Veronica Hasket

### Holy Week Service

Our Roper community Holy Week Service was held at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, March 31, 1999, at Mt. Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church with our pastor, the Rev. Billy Reynolds leading in prayer and making everyone welcome to our little country church on the Millpond Road. Hymns of praise were shared by the congregation and music by the pianist, Lucy Jones. The Rev. Frank Alexander lead the responsive reading, "Cross, Suffering, and Death." The sick were remembered in prayer as well as our weekly Church Prayer list. The Rev. Howard Simpson, Jr., lead in prayer and read Scripture from Psalm 22.

Special music was rendered by choirs and individuals from Albemarle United Methodist Church, Mt. Zion OFWB Church, Roper Baptist Church and Roper Pentecostal Holiness Church.

The text was taken from Matthew 28:1-10 and the sermon, "The Roller Coaster of Easter," was delivered by the Rev. Oris Hubbard.

Following the special sermon, we had the observance of the Lord's Supper with the Rev. Frank Alexander and the Rev. Howard Simpson, Jr., leading everyone to the Table of the Lord. Just as was done at the Lord's Supper, we partook of the common loaf and common cup. All of God's children broke a piece from the loaf and dipped it in the cup. It was such a blessing to see so many different denominations coming together and partaking from the same common loaf and cup. If anyone was unable to come to the Lord's Table, the pastors carried the communion to the person's seat. The prayer of Thanksgiving was prayed followed by our last hymn, "Power in the Blood."

Brother Billy Reynolds said it had been a pleasure being part of this service and being a part of the service to the cont....



Mt. Zion OFWB Church Choir during Roper Community Holy Week Service. (L to R) Peggy Spruill, Wanda Tyson, Mae Oliver, Carolyn Reynolds, and Natalie Oliver.



# People & Events

## Holy Week Service cont....

Lord. Closing prayer was by Brother Billy.

We praise the Lord for the high attendance. Our church was filled to capacity. It was such a joy sharing this time in our Father's House with so many people who love the Lord. These people truly blessed our church with their fellowship. You could feel the presence of the Lord and see the Glory in the Christians' faces. When we reach our final home, we will all be of one accord. This special event shows we're moving in the right direction. ("And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place" Acts. 2:1).

## Fellowship Hall Underway

We are so excited with the process of the construction of our Fellowship Hall at Mt. Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Roper, NC. We have needed this building for a long time.

Since Brother Billy Reynolds has been pastoring our church, we have an addition of many new members. This has enabled our congregation to become larger and for this — We praise the Lord! Once our fellowship hall is finished, we're hoping to expand our sanctuary.

This is an expensive venture, and we have faith in God that this undertaking will be successfully completed.

Mount Zion has been happy to help other churches in their time of need and would appreciate any assistance, financial or otherwise, that could be given by sister congregations towards the completion of our wonderful project. May the Lord richly bless you all.



Anyone who feels able to donate to our church for this project please send check to: Mt. Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Mrs. Lucy Jones — Treasurer, 842 Gourd Neck Road, Roper, NC 27970.

## Yelverton Grove Church 1998 Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Yelverton Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Smithfield, NC awarded Perfect Attendance Sunday School Pins for 1998 to seven of its members on April 4, 1999. The pins were presented by Sunday school superintendent, Stacy Jackson. He thanked each person for faithfulness and perseverance in attending Sunday school every Sunday in 1998.

Special commendation was given to Miss Ada Hughes for her 57 years of perfect attendance. "Miss Ada," who is in her 80's, has taught the Nursery Class in Sunday school for over 50 years and continues to be an active, devoted, and faithful member of Yelverton Grove Church and Sunday school.

The Rev. Joe Ballance, his wife, Eva, and daughter, Elisabeth, were also commended for the many years of perfect Sunday school attendance. The Rev. Ballance was ordained as an Original Free Will Baptist minister on December 13, 1998, and began his pastorate at Yelverton Grove on January 3, 1999. He and his family came to us from Holly Springs Church in the Western Conference.

Those receiving pins were: Jonathan Holmes, 4th year; Charles Godwin, 7th year; Elisabeth Ballance, 8th year; Abigail Capps, 10th year; Rev. Joe Ballance, 13th year; Eva Ballance, 20th year; and Ada Hughes, 57th year.



*L to R: Abigail Capps, Elisabeth Ballance, Joe Ballance, Eva Ballance, Ada Hughes, and Jonathan Homes in front.*



## Morning Star Woman's Conference

On Friday, April 9, 1999, all roads led to Black Mountain, NC, Cragmont Assembly of Original Free Will Baptists, in particular.

At 8:00 PM on Friday evening, Donna Holland welcomed the group. After the welcome, Teresa Ball read Psalm 121 followed by prayer by Carolyn Jernigan and group singing directed by Phyllis McLamb.

The attendance count showed 139 people, ranging in age from 12 years to 84 years, the greatest number ever for Morning Star. The number count per district included:

Albemarle — 1

Pee Dee — 14

Piedmont — 0 (We missed you.)

Central — 25

Western — 52

Eastern — 14

Cape Fear — 33.

Represented in this group were: 7 state officers, 46 first timers, 12 ministers' wives, 10 mother/daughters, and 8 sets of sisters.

Fun began with "Getting Acquainted" directed by Teresa Ball and Freda Hargett. To get acquainted, each person was given a blank, crossword puzzle sheet. Then, each person began with her own name and made the puzzle by, adding names of each new friend.

Fun continued with the sharing of two identical "Happy Boxes." Teresa and Freda presented each "Happy Box" to a happy person. Throughout the conference, each recipient passed the box to another happy person. In so doing, this person received a smiley-faced light bulb sticker for her name tag and a piece of candy of her choice. "These were traveling boxes." On Saturday evening, the persons in possession

of the "Happy Boxes" were privileged to open their box and receive the prize which included a giggle ball that giggled when bounced.

After announcements, group singing, and prayer by Sandra Jones, the Friday evening activities concluded with registration, refreshments, and fellowship.

Saturday morning began with devotions by Nancy Edwards Matthews. She used Psalm 139:14 "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." She used two rocks to show us that no matter what our bodies are like on the outside, with God and the Holy Spirit, we can be polished and beautiful on the inside. Each lady was given a prayer rock as a daily reminder of the importance of God and prayer in each life.

After breakfast, it was back to the sanctuary to enjoy a Bible study by Deborah King. She used 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible." Her topic was, "It's the Grind that Get's 'Em."

The group participated by reading assigned Scriptures as she led the study. First, Deborah talked about the grindstones that grind you down. They were:

- 1) failure to see the big picture
- 2) worry
- 3) security
- 4) overwork
- 5) people around us wear us down

6) waiting for something exciting to happen

7) not working smart

8) lack of results.

"We need to take time to rest, reflect and renew our opportunities. Have we missed something? Now is the time to take care of it. A lot of sweat does not make a great return. Pray, study, and work in order to gain. Remember that it is not the sugar that makes the tea sweet but the stirring!"

Next Deborah talked about the grindstones that polish you up. They are:

1) enjoy your work

2) have a game plan

3) go the second mile

4) see the big picture

5) keep growing.

"We should use our challenges in life as opportunities to grow, rather than using them as stumbling blocks. God does not see us as what we were but as what we will be. Happiness begins with the possibility of growth. Happiness continues with the reality of growth." The Bible study ended with prayer and the blessing for lunch. Saturday afternoon was free to rest, relax, rock, or shop. Enjoy!

At 7:00 PM on Saturday evening, we met in the sanctuary for our Sunday school lesson taught by Eleanor Sullivan. Prior to the lesson, we sang a hymn and had prayer. The topic for the lesson was "Believing Without Seeing," using John 20:19-29 as her text. Eleanor compared our attitudes with those of the disciples. Are we doubters like Thomas? Do we always need to see things to believe? After prayer

cont....

## Morning Star Woman's Conference, cont....

and blessing, supper was served.

Saturday's activities ended with vespers by Teresa Ball. She used Proverbs 17:22 and Psalm 102 to pull together various thoughts from the devotions, Bible study, and Sunday school lesson as they related to our daily lives.

Sunday morning worship service was led by the Rev. John Williams. He used Matthew 25:14-19 to remind us that we are all on the same level and of the same value of God. It does not matter how much we have, but how we use what is ours.

John Williams' version — Don't confuse one's talents with his/her value and don't look on God's love as a smothering love." After prayer and blessing, breakfast was served.

The Morning Star project is enough light bulbs to last a year. I think everyone was serious on their Saturday afternoon free time. There was an abundance of light bulbs purchased.

Our Sunday morning offering was \$1049.00. We know that God will multiply this and it will be used for His glory.

We give a hearty thanks to:

Deborah King — Bible Teacher  
Nancy Matthews — Devotions  
Eleanor Sullivan — Sunday School Lesson

Phyllis McLamb — Music Director  
Jean Wise — Pianist  
Teresa Ball — Vespers, Registrar  
Donna Holland — Director  
May Pittman — Registrar/Director Assistant

A special thanks to John, Arlinda and the kitchen staff for taking care of our needs.

Let us praise God for a weekend filled with Spiritual blessings and wonderful memories.

## REGISTRATION FORM

### CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCES

June 7-12, Speaker, Jackie Flowers

August 2-7, Speaker, Janet Brown

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Which Conference attending: \_\_\_\_\_

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of those with whom you would like to room: \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this registration form along with a \$20.00 deposit to:**

**Teresa M. Ball**

**6144 Weyerhaeuser Road**

**Grifton, NC 28530**

A balance of \$120.00 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont.

A day trip will be planned with an approximate cost of \$65. There will be afternoon trips into Black Mountain and Ashville (\$5.00 each). Please make your plans now to join us for one or both of these conferences.

**Remember: The June Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as our ladies. A limited number of private accommodations for couples are available on a first registered, first serve basis.**



## AFC Conference at Cragmont Registration Form

AFC Conference at Cragmont will be held July 5-10. The cost of the week will be \$195.00. Make your plans now to attend AFC Conference at Cragmont.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this registration form along with a \$95.00 deposit to:

AFC Conference  
c/o Frank Baggett  
5403 Weyerhauser Road  
Ayden, NC 28513

## CHURCHES & MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. James Warren is available for pulpit supply, on a part-time or full-time basis. He is in good standing with the Eastern Conference. He may be contacted at 649 Poplar Street, Kinston, NC 28584, phone 252-527-1648.

The Rev. Charles W. Sugg is available for pastoral services. He may be contacted at: 700 W. Hooks River Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530; phone 919-736-2527, or Fax 919-735-8920.

Spring Hope Original Free Will Baptist Church, near New Bern, NC, is seeking a pastor. If interested, please contact: Sam Tyson, 375 Truitt Road, New Bern, NC 28560; phone 252-636-5740

The Rev. M.E. Cox is available for pastoral services. His address is: 4804 Kinlock Drive, Durham, NC 27712; phone 919-479-9995.

## Information Concerning Articles for Publication

The editorial staff of the Free Will Baptist Press is always ready to help you get your news items and articles published. Following are some suggestions for making the process easier.

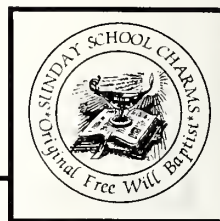
1. Type all copy, (please, no hand-written). Use 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 11 inch paper.
2. Keep a copy of material (include your phone number so the staff may call if there are questions about your copy.)
3. Indicate the title of the article approximately two inches from the top of the page. Leave an inch and a half at the top of each succeeding page, and for the convenience of editing, please number succeeding pages. Type on only one side of the paper. Please do not type in all caps.
4. Leave a margin of at least one inch on both sides of the paper.
5. Write no more than one article to a page.
6. Clip pages together, using a paper clip. Do not staple pages.
7. Read, reread, and correct your own copy.
8. Observe and practice the proper rules of grammar and punctuation.
9. Prepare your articles and report as far in advance as possible. Articles for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the tenth of the month proceeding the date of publication. (Example: Items for the September issue must be

in by the tenth of August, etc.)

10. Photos will not be returned unless requested and only when return postage is provided.
11. Feature articles should be limited to no more than six double-spaced, typed pages.
12. Registration forms will be printed in no more than two issues, and only one unless requested to do so.
13. Full-page announcements will be printed in only one issue. If more than one printing is necessary, it will be reduced to one or two columns.
14. Please do not send camera-ready articles. It is better if we set material in our own style, etc.
15. Please remember that the editor makes the final decision as to whether an article should be published or not. Articles and items that are not dated, may be printed in a later issue.
16. Send articles to: The Editor, The Free Will Baptist Press, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513-0159.

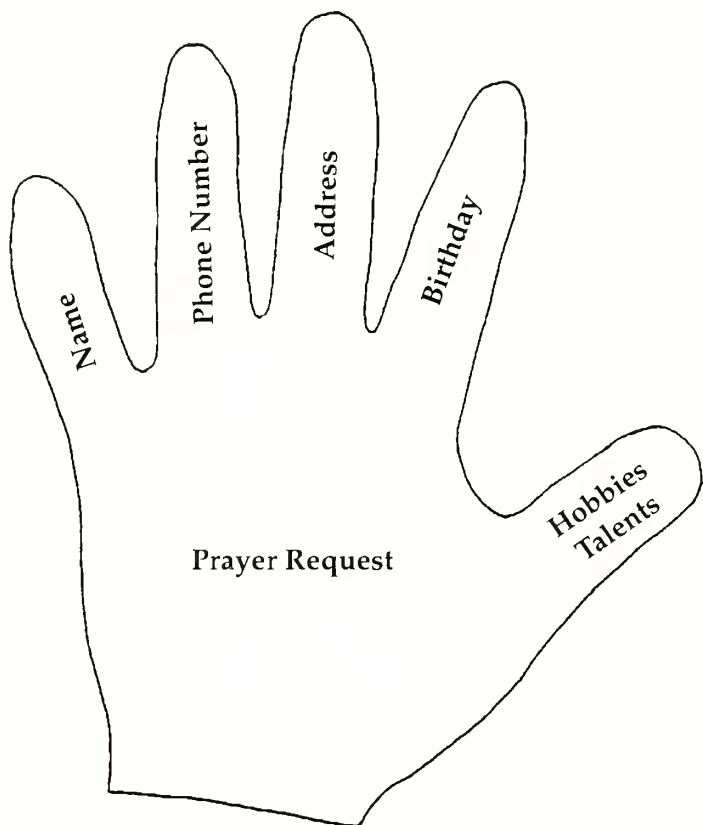
We express our appreciation to the churches and individuals who provide us with the news items and articles for publication. You are helping us to record a history of our denomination. Please keep up the good work. We will do our part to serve you through the pages of *The Free Will Baptists*.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHARMS



## Communication: Sunday School

New and fresh ideas are always being needed. Some for making contacts — others for fellowship. Here are some suggestions.



### Hand of Fellowship

On the first Sunday of each month, hand out blank paper. Have each person fill in the information as shown. Exchange hands. For that month contact is made with that person. Prayer is made for that person. Visits to the house can be made to meet any other family member not attending Sunday school. The point: communication!

On a bulletin board or poster board, have 3 labels — **present**, **absent**, and **prospects**. Every member of the Sunday school class will have on file a 3 x 5 index card with name, address, phone number, and any other information they would like to share. Each Sunday the cards are put under the appropriate headings. Those under **absent** and **prospects** are the ones who need a call or visit. The point: communication!

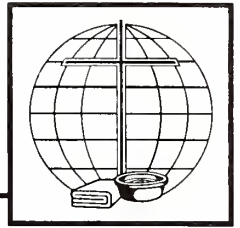
PRESENT	ABSENT	PROSPECT

For any information concerning workshops, ideas, materials contact the Sunday School Board at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.



# Convention Update

Convention  
of Original  
Free Will Baptists



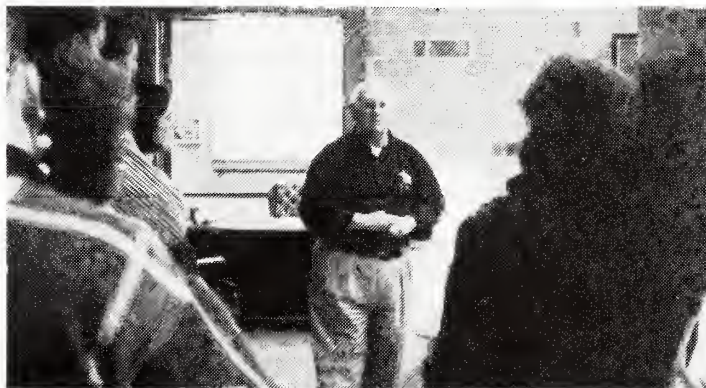
David C. Hansley, General Administrator

## Take a Trip To See...

Take a trip to Ayden, North Carolina, with your youth group, Auxiliary, Layman's League, or senior citizens for a tour of our Headquarters. Hold a meeting of your group in our conference room as an option. Have a representative of our Convention share the work and ministry of our denomination. While visiting, receive materials and information about Mount Olive College, The Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Retirement Ministry, Sunday School Ministry, Church Finance, Home Missions and Evangelism, The Minister's Program, Cragmont Assembly, Foreign Missions, The Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, and the Convention/Headquarters. Then the whole picture gets even better. When you add shopping in the Bible and Bookstore next door, you give your group an opportunity to really get up close for a better look.



Recently the officers of the Youth Convention came for a meeting and tour of our Headquarters.



We invite our churches to come visit us at the Headquarters because things about our denomination look even better up close. When making plans for a visit and tour, remember to schedule at least two months in advance. You may call (252) 746-4963 or write the General Administrator, PO Box 39, Ayden, North Carolina 28513.

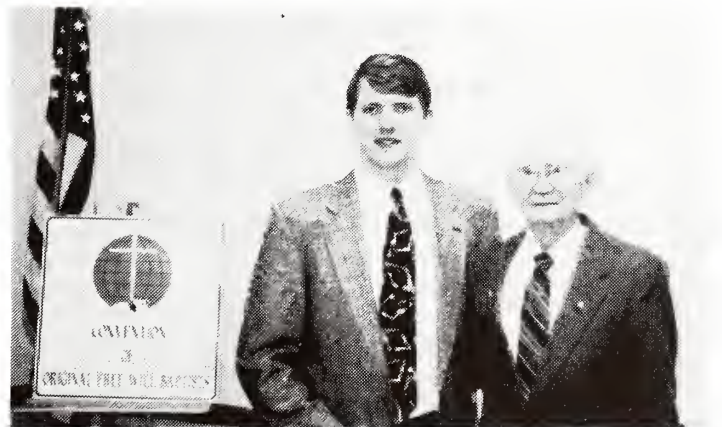
## Hansley Speaks For Worship

In March, the Rev. Carol B. Hansley of Newport, North Carolina, pastor of Russell's Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, brought the message during the Headquarters Worship Service. In a most challenging way, brother Hansley shared some of his experiences as a minister, using for his topic, "A Call To Witnessing." He noted that one of the most important tasks of the minister and church, is that of sharing Jesus Christ with others.



L to R: The Rev. Carol B. Hansley; the Rev. David C. Hansley, General Administrator

It was also our privilege to have visiting with us, Mr. Tommy Yopp, a licensed minister of the Eastern Conference and member of the Folkstone Original Free Will Baptist Church, the home of the Rev. Hansley. Mr. Yopp is a student at Mount Olive College.



L to R: Mr. Tommy Yopp; the Rev. Carol B. Hansley

# Be Their Lighthouse.



“Shine out...like  
beacon lights,  
holding out...the  
Word of Life”  
Philippians  
2:15b, 16.

When Jesus left this earth, He had one passion for His followers. That they shine as beacons of light to the lost world He left behind. Just as Jesus is the Light of the world, every one of His followers is to be a point of reference — a Lighthouse — showing the way home to Him. That’s what establishing a Lighthouse is all about.

Lighthouses are the main thrust of Mission America’s “Celebrate Jesus 2000” movement, a vision to pray for and share the good news of Jesus Christ with every man, woman and young person in America by the end of year 2000. The Mission America coalition consists of over 350 national denominations and ministries who are collaborating to mobilize local churches to establish 3 million Lighthouses from coast to coast.

As the new millennium approaches, we find Original Free Will Baptists uniquely positioned for one of the most important efforts in the history of our church. We can play a key role in the most massive, intensive, and inclusive evangelistic outreach.

To learn how your church can participate in this endeavor for reaching your community for Christ and how to establish Lighthouses, you will need to make sure that your people *attend the 1999 Convention on September 14–16, at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, North Carolina.*



## You Can MAKE An Impact!

From time to time our people, churches or church organizations are looking avenues to IMPACT the work of the Kingdom. The way you can help is by providing the necessary funds to meet our Headquarters needs. The following list is made available for your considerations.

1. Carpet Cleaning
2. Lighting and Wiring for New Sign
3. Framing for Heritage Hall Items
4. New Drapes for Reception Area
5. New Drapes for Convention Office
6. Door Mats
7. Landscaping for New Sign
8. Landscaping at Headquarters Entrance
9. Bookcases for Headquarters Library
10. Computer Desk
11. Cabinets and Counters for Reception/Secretary Area
12. Paint and Wallpaper Restrooms
13. Paint inside of Headquarters
14. Office Door Signs.

To discover how you can help meet the NEEDS of our Headquarters, contact the General Administrator at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, or call (252) 746-4963.



## Schedule of 1999 Coming Events

June 4-5	Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat Camp Vandemere Vandemere, NC	June 28-July 2	Youth Camp Camp Vandemere Vandemere, NC
June 6-8	Task Force Meeting Peletier Creek House Morehead City, NC	June 28-July 3	Youth Frontier Conference (YFA) Cragmont Assembly Black Mountain, NC
June 7	Central Conference District Layman's League Ormondsville OFWB Church Ormondsville, NC	July 5-10	Youth Frontier Conference (AFC) Cragmont Assembly Black Mountain, NC
June 7-11	Youth Camp Camp Vandemere Vandemere, NC	July 12-17	General Youth II Conference Cragmont Assembly Black Mountain, NC
June 7-12	June Woman's Conference Cragmont Assembly Black Mountain, NC	July 12-16	Youth Camp Camp Vandemere Vandemere, NC
June 12-22	Mexico Short-Term Team	July 19-24	General Youth I Conference Cragmont Assembly Black Mountain, NC
June 14-18	Youth Camp Camp Vandemere Vandemere, NC	July 26-31	Young People's Bible Conference Cragmont Assembly Black Mountain, NC
June 14-19	Cragmont Youth Conference Cragmont Assembly Black Mountain, NC	July 26-30	Youth Camp Camp Vandemere Vandemere, NC
June 18-19	Sunday School Training FFA Camp White Lake, NC	August 2-7	August Woman's Auxiliary Conference Cragmont Assembly Black Mountain, NC
June 21-25	Christian Cadet Conference Cragmont Assembly Black Mountain, NC	August 7	Singing By The River All Day Gospel Sing, Camp Vandemere Vandemere, NC
June 21-25	Women's Week Camp Vandemere Vandemere, NC	August 21-24	Mexico Short-Term Team
		August 22	Heritage Sunday



# THE GOLDEN YEARS

Information, Inspiration, and Planning for Senior Citizens



"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary: and they shall walk and not faint,"  
(Isaiah 40:31).

## A Time for Reflection and Recovery

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

Writing *The Golden Years* during the past four and one-half years has been a meaningful and rewarding experience. As I made a major transition from middle age to beoming a senior citizen, each issue provided an opportunity to explore and express the changes taking place in my life and in my work. In return, I have been gratified by the kind comments of so many readers.

Now the time has come for another transition, a time for reflection and recovery. In late March, I spent ten days in the hospital undergoing treatment for pneumonia in both lungs along with associated complications. Thanks to good medical care, the prayers of Christian friends, and the loving support of my family, I am now home and feeling well. My doctor has advised me, however, that approximately two months will be required for regaining my strength, and that thereafter, I should plan to phase back gradually into my activities.

Given these conditions, I consider it prudent to

reevaluate my personal as well as my work schedule for the spring and summer. Following my recovery, I anticipate being fully able to fulfill the essential work of my office and to plan for the future of our program of planned giving at Mount Olive College. Through this program we are making significant progress in the development of an endowment that will better prepare the college to fulfill its mission in future years.

Dr. Pepper Worthington, editor of the Mount Olive College Press, has advised me that the press will publish in book form an edition of the issues to date. During the next few months we will evaluate whether to continue *The Golden Years*, and if so, what format and revisions might be advisable. Your comments are both invited and encouraged.

W. Burkette Raper  
Mount Olive College  
634 Henderson Street  
Mount Olive, NC 28365

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# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Thomas à Kempis. *The Imitation of Christ* in *The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics*. Introduction by Timothy P. Weber. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

## Introduction



Dr. Pepper Worthington

Thomas Hammerlein (1380–1471), who later became known as Thomas à Kempis, was born in Dutch Kempen near Cologne. He was educated by the Brethren of the Common Life in Deventer. Scholarship and devotion were the hallmarks of the Brethren's reputation. They grew out of a German mystic movement called the Friends of God whose preachers included Meister Eckhart (1260–1327), Henry Suso (1295–1366), John Ruysbroeck (1293–1381) and John Tauler (1300–1381). The emphasis upon following Christ's footsteps, repenting of sins, and denying the self influenced the Brethren who in turn affected Thomas Hammerlein.

## Historical Atmosphere

Christianity in the late fourteenth century was in crisis. Confusion existed with the papacy in Avignon and controlled by the French crown. During the "Great Papal Schism" (1378–1417), the Catholic Church had to choose between two popes. Money floated in and out the corridors of the Church and positions of bishops and cardinals went to the highest bidder.

During this time the scholarship of Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) introduced a scholastic theology in contrast to a simple piety. The Brethren resisted intellectual doctrine in favor of devotional piety. Thomas à Kempis falls into this tradition of devotion and his book, published in 1471, became the "most popular book of devotion in the history of the Catholic Church," (435) according to Thomas P. Weber.

## Pre-Reformation History

Papal schism created turmoil for the Catholic Church. The "Conciliar Movement" was an effort to hold church councils in Pisa (1409), Constance (1414–1418), Pavia and Siena (1423), Basel, Ferrara, and Florence (1431–1445). The councils were supposed to have the final say in big disputes. People were ready for a change in the way the Catholic Church was run.

Direct challenges to papal authority came with two reformers in particular, John Wycliffe (1328–1384) in England and John Huss (1369–1415) in Bohemia. Wycliffe criticized the sale of indulgences while Huss spoke out against corrupt Church practices. In 1415 Huss was burned at the stake and Wycliffe's body (he had died in 1384) was dug up and burned because the Council of Constance demanded both men's death by fire in 1415.

## Renaissance

With the new birth of classical knowledge that turned towards Greece and Rome for inspiration, Christians began to write in a new way, more committed to the simplicity and humility of Jesus. Thomas à Kempis and Erasmus (1466–1536) both emerge at this time and both men were educated by the Brethren.

## The First Book

*The Imitation of Christ* is divided into four parts. The First Book emphasizes preparations for living the spiritual life. What does Thomas à Kempis recommend? He stressed these preparations: (1) living a good life is more important than thinking about doctrine; (2) seek to be unknown; (3) search for "unity and simplicity" (445) in the self; (4) seek to have great charity; (5) read books which are simple and devotional; (6) avoid evil habits when they first tempt so that they do not grow in power; (7) learn to trust God; (8) judge only the self and not others; (9) recognize that God is the "most necessary" (450) reality of existence; (10) daily renew vows and reflect upon chosen deeds; (11) do not seek the company of the world; (12) realize life upon earth is wretched; (13) live each day as if the day were the day of death.

Thomas à Kempis captured the new devotion and simplicity of the pre-Reformation spirit when he wrote: "He who shunneth not small faults falleth little by little into greater...watch over thyself, stir thyself up, admonish thyself, and howsoever it be with others, neglect not thyself" (465).

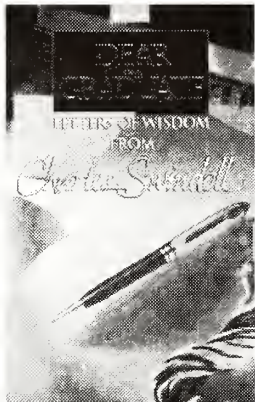


## The Imitation of Christ

Thomas à Kempis

*The Imitation of Christ* in *The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON

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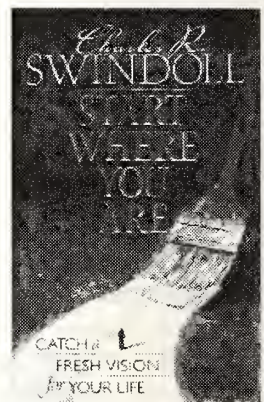
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# The Free Will Baptist

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## United Under A Common Faith

According to *The American Heritage College Dictionary* (Third Edition), a denomination is: "A large group of religious congregations united under a common faith and name and administratively organized." This is a sound and basic definition that we can readily grasp and understand.

Denominations were formed for various reasons and under various circumstances. Comparatively speaking, things were pretty simple in the beginning of the Christian movement as recorded in the Book of Acts. Denominations did not exist; however, as the believers began to expand their ministries of proclaiming the "Good News" in other areas, and to a more diversified people, differences in doctrinal matters began to develop. The leaders, such as Peter, Paul, and others, were able to correct these matters within the churches. Paul's letters to these churches reveal the problems. His writings to the Church of Corinth, for example, certainly bears out the truth that divisions can quickly arise among believers.

Through the work of Paul and other apostles, Christianity spread rapidly. Rome's persecution of the Christians ended with the recognition of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire about AD 380. The Christian faith was then carried throughout the world. During the Middle Ages, the church played a major role in the political and intellectual life. The period of time gave rise to monasticism. In their monasteries, the monks wrote chronicles and preserved the ancient manuscripts. Many historians believe it was this ascetic lifestyle that resulted in the period of time known as the "Dark Ages," a time when progression in learning and intellectual advancement practically came to a halt.

During the first thousand years, Christianity remained basically intact, in spite of the heresies and schisms that developed. In 1054, however, the church at Constantinople and the church in Rome separated to become what we now know as the Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Church. Through the influence of Martin Luther and his opposition to certain teachings and practices of the Catholic Church, the Protestant Reformation was launched in the 1500s, although it not had been Luther's intention to bring about a Revolution, but to reform the church. Christians who broke away from the Roman Catholic Church became known as Protestants. It was out of this Reformation that denominations were born, with each having its own distinctiveness.

What would the Christian world be like today if there had been no schisms? We can only imagine. The idea of one great, world-wide church is the dream of ecumenicism. If it were possible to unite all believers

without compromising basic beliefs and doctrines found in the Word of God, what a great accomplishment it would be! The Church, however, "is the body of Christ, all Christians everywhere." Thus, believers from all denominations are members of the body of Christ. Our denominational labels are not of utmost importance. It is Christ who redeems, not a particular church, although it is the denominational church that becomes the means of redemption.

Denominationalism has helped to shape the course of human history. Through denominations missionary societies have been formed, educational institutions have been built, orphanages and child-care ministries have been established, and many other outreach ministries have impacted humankind. In the forming of conferences and associations, individual churches recognize that much more can be accomplished in a united effort. Few churches could begin its own child-care facility, or begin a creditable institution of higher learning, or form and operate its own foreign missions program. Our own Convention was not organized until 1913; however, conferences were organized much earlier. Through untied efforts and cooperative endeavors, Original Free Will Baptists have been able to broaden its outreach in all facets of ministry. The same can be said of all denominations, both large and small, that seek to meet the challenges of His command to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,..." (Matthew 28:19).

Denominationalism is not without its weaknesses and failures. Its strengths and successes, however, far outweigh its shortcomings. Let us be proud of our denomination and may we devote ourselves more completely to its programs and ministries. After all, we are united under a common faith and we are administratively organized.

— C.H. Overman

## The Ministers' Conference

The Annual Ministers' Conference was held May 3-6 at Cragmont Assembly, with about ninety ministers in attendance. It has been my privilege to attend this Conference since the early fifties. It is always a highlight of the year. In last year's session the date was changed to May instead of June in order to provide another week for a youth camp. This seemed to work out well, since the attendance was slightly higher than in recent years. This year's theme focused on prayer, and all the speakers did a great job.



# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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## NEXT MONTH

*July is  
Christian  
Education  
Month*

*June is  
Cragmont Assembly  
Month*

## Looking at Littleton

by Mark Hogan, Pastor  
Bethany Original Free Will Baptist Church  
Winterville, North Carolina

*Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law. Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know thee. Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him. They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off. Thy calf, O Samaria, hath cast thee off; mine anger is kindled against them: how long will it be ere they attain to innocency? For from Israel was it also: the workman made it; therefore it is not God: but the calf of Samaria shall be broken in pieces. For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall shallow it up (Hosea 8:1-7).*

The prophet Hosea ministered in Israel during the days of the Divided Kingdom. His ministry was both prophetic and painful. He was called to experience the pain caused by an unfaithful wife. Her sexual permissiveness would mirror the spiritual adultery of the nation of Israel. It is in this context that Hosea proclaims a chilling condemnation. Israel had sown the wind and would reap the whirlwind.

I wonder if our nation does not find itself in the same situation today. Once again we were stabbed awake to another mass murder in one of our public schools. Bombs are not only falling in Kosovo, but also in our schools. Who are we going to bomb? Who are we going to blame? Students outside of the mainstream found a deafening way to get our attention. We have Thelma and Louise in trench coats. What was it that set these seemingly normal kids into a murderous rage?

Most people understand that hazing and ridicule has always been an unfortunate part of school life. I experienced my share of such

harassment. However, not once did I consider taking my father's deer rifle and mowing down teachers and students alike. What then is the difference during this period of our history. What have we sown in the past twenty or thirty years that has produced a harvest of death?

*I believe that we have sown the seed of moral relativism* — the postmodern view that there is no such thing as absolute truth. Morality is a matter of utility. The Presidential scandal provided us with a classic picture of this philosophy at work: "she was having sex with me but I wasn't having sex with her." This exotic label changing is leading us to a valueless society. When one makes the assumption that there is no right and wrong, then the value of an action is measured by the value we assign to it. This fundamental paradigm shift leads to the justification of any action we seek to pursue. Great leaders through history have seen the dangers of this mind-set. Samuel Johnson said, "Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and

dreadful. Similarly, Roosevelt said, "To educate a man in mind but not in morals is to educate a menace to society."

*We have also sown the seeds of abortion on demand.* We have become the arbitrators of life and death. We have seen the slow but steady devaluation of life in our generation. Many believe that the right to die is actually an inalienable right. In this culture of death, is it any wonder that desperate young people can kill with such sadistic pleasure.

*Furthermore, we have sown the seeds of a violence-based entertainment.* There is the violent and vulgar circus of professional wrestling. Violent video games tend to desensitize our children to the reality of maiming and murder. One who lives in this violent and virtual world may cease to recognize when one passes from fantasy to reality. Many young people feed their minds on the fringe of Gothic and Industrial rock. These and other media influences have a numbing effect on the depraved minds of such troubled teens.

*There is the seed of materialism.* Many children have been raising themselves for the past thirty years. We have placed prosperity over principle. We have valued finances over family. When one determines his self-worth by his net worth it creates an environment of anger toward those who are viewed as being a part of the mainstream establishment.



## Looking at Littleton

We have also sown the seed of prejudice — the idea that some people in our society are not really as good as we are. We marginalize people who are unlike us. Never forget that when you diminish someone else's value, you diminish your value as well. One's value is not determined by color or culture, but by creation. Many believe that certain racial slurs are a part of our culture heritage. When one communicates in this way, you plant a seed. When that seed falls into an impressionable and troubled mind, it may yield a harvest of destruction.

I am not suggesting that these items listed above are the ultimate causes

of such killing. Obviously, most young people do not become mass murderers. My contention is that when these seeds are planted in a depraved and unregenerate heart, they become a factor in the way such anger is acted out. The ultimate issue is to be found in the heart of the individual. Jeremiah said, "The heart is ... desperately wicked..." (Jeremiah 17:9). Jesus said, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Matthew 15:19). In Genesis we learn that, "...the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). Thus

God was sorry that He had made man and was, "grieved in his heart." You recall that judgment fell upon humankind in the form of a universal flood.

The greatest thing we can do to influence our culture in a positive way is to help men to get their heart right with God, to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, to be the church that God has called us to be. We often focus on how dark it is in these troubling days. Always remember that when it is dark outside, even a little light will do. What an opportunity we and our Christian youth have to shine as lights in this dark and desperate time.

## Israel's Perseverance in Exile

by Edmondo Gonzalez., Pastor  
Warsaw Original Free Will Baptist Church  
Warsaw, North Carolina

*The reason modern philosophers consider Israel an archaic fossil of history is their prior tenet of knowledge that prophecy does not exist. However, the perseverance of the people of Israel during and after the exile is unquestionable proof of the inspiration of His Word. This alone vindicates prophesy.*

What or who is a prophet? A prophet was a man. He spoke for God. Not in the place of God, but spoke only the words of God. The prophet spoke to Israel of the past, present, and future. The Apostle Peter wrote: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy... prophecy came not by the will of man:... but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:19-21).

The great Prophet Isaiah was the first prophet to prophecy Israel's exile to Babylon. Twice, when Israel was threatened with disaster, Isaiah called upon his divine prophetic resources and gave wise counsel as he spoke of the exile. Ahaz was first to

receive the warning and later plainly foretold to Hezekiah (Isaiah 7:1-12:6, 39:6).

In desperation Ahaz, king of Judah, made alliance with Assyria against Israel and Syria. As Ahaz contemplated signing the treaty, Isaiah forcefully intervened to dissuade him from aligning his forces with those of Assyria. The prophet spoke of having faith in God's promise and not in human alliances. Judah's king persisted and refused the prophet's wise counsel.

Isaiah then spoke of a Perfect King that would arise "from the root of Jesse" (see Isaiah 11:1). The prophet was foretelling the coming of the Messiah who would be the ideal judge, a Statesman and King. He would be the direct opposite of Ahaz. When Ahaz allied himself with Assyria, both Israel and Judah were in their own territories. Neither the Assyrian nor the Babylonian captivities had begun. In fact of this future dispersion of the Jewish people, Isaiah bravely proclaimed that God's

*Isaiah concentrated his efforts and ministry warning Hezekiah to keep from making alliances with other countries.*

people would return to their land (Isaiah 11:12). It would not be a universal return, however, only a remnant would come back (Isaiah 10:21-22). The prophet brought along his own son, Shear-jashub, which means "a remnant will return" as he confronted Ahaz to assure him of God's prophesy. Well over a century later, the first Judean captives were deported to Babylon.

When Ahaz died, his son Hezekiah became king. He was a good king and followed the Command of the Lord. Isaiah concentrated his efforts and ministry warning Hezekiah to keep from making alliances with other countries (Isaiah 20). Veiled threats were made by the cocky Assyrian Sennacherib, but God's word prevailed. God sent out His angel and he put to death one hundred and eighty-five thousand Assyrian soldiers. Sennacherib withdrew all the way to Nineveh (Isaiah 37:36-37). So great was the blow that the power of Assyria began to decline, giving rise to the Neo-Babylonian empire.

Hezekiah sought a close political relationship with the Chaldeans, receiving envoys and gifts from

their king in Babylon. He foolishly displayed all of his palace treasures to them. Undoubtedly, the envoys made a complete report of all they had seen to Nebuchadnezzar. When Isaiah discovered what Hezekiah had done, he was incensed and began to ask questions of the king.

---

*When Nebuchadnezzar pillaged the temple and robbed the treasures, he left untouched a far greater wealth: the Scripture.*

---

Hezekiah was upfront and honest with the prophet and told him all. Isaiah then prophetically spoke these words to Hezekiah: "Hear the words of the Lord Almighty"! Here Isaiah begins with a list of future events. "Everything you showed the Chaldeans in your palace will one day be carried to Babylon. Your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, they too shall be taken away and will become eunuchs in the place of the king of Babylon" (shades of Daniel and the three Hebrew children). One-hundred and thirty years later what Isaiah had said God brought

to pass (2 Chronicles 36:17-18). When Nebuchadnezzar pillaged the temple and robbed the treasures, he left untouched a far greater wealth: the Scriptures. In the Word of God was the prophetic saying of Isaiah not only about the exile, but perhaps most important, the actual return of the people of God (Isaiah 41:8-12).

The prophet had given itemized details and events that would conduct the restoration of Jerusalem and the return from exile, not excluding the name of a future Gentile king, Cyrus (Isaiah 44:24-26, 45:1).

One hundred years before the fact the prophet referred to Cyrus as "shepherd" and "anointed." He even prophesied that Cyrus would be the one to issue edicts to rebuild Jerusalem, along with the great temple.

Some scholars teach that Isaiah is not the author of the entire Book of Isaiah. One who trusts in the Lord Jesus should have no difficulty believing that God the Holy Spirit could predict by name the person and ministry of any man.

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*Express your love and respect for "Dad"  
this Father's Day  
June 20*

*"Honour thy Father" (Exodus 20:12).*



# CAMP VANDEMERE

## Our Family Enrichment Center

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

By the time this article gets printed, camp will already be beginning. Much has been done to prepare for the new season and there is more to be done.

Our annual cleanup day was a great success. We had several churches represented, with both men and ladies working very hard. While most of the men as well as the young boys were outside, there were several ladies cleaning inside getting the dorms ready for our campers. Some came early, some came late, some left early, while others stayed until all was finished. There was a group who couldn't come on Saturday, due to a previous commitment, so they came a day early and worked all day. Holly Springs Church served hot dogs with all the trimmings for lunch and we all enjoyed it.

Mark and Sandie, our new managers, have been working hard to get the camp ready for the new season. They had a lot of work to do in the kitchen to meet the new health codes. Keep in mind that our kitchen was put in about twenty-five years ago and things have changed since then. The health inspector was very pleased with the kitchen, she said it was in good condition and had been well kept. Much of this is due to the efforts of Aldric and Julia Ann Gaskins, our former managers, who worked hard to see that everything

was as it should be. One of the major things we had to do was replace our two stainless steel sinks. Our sinks had square bottoms; the new code calls for rounded bottoms. This was a big expense for the camp. Also we need to paint all the cabinets as well as all the doors, and other wood work that have never been painted, and there were other repairs that needed to be done.

We now have a nice concrete side walk joining the kitchen and the dorm. No more splinters in the feet from the old wood sidewalk. The Eastern Conference Layman's League took this as a project, with some donation's from other laymen. We appreciate the effort to complete this job for the camp.

Let me encourage you to make your reservation early. While considering when you would like to go, let me call your attention to the weeks that are still open, May 31-June 4, and July 5-9. Since our weekends fill up so fast, maybe some of you would like to reserve a few days for a get away during one of these weeks. Remember, all our buildings are air-conditioned and have heat for the colder months. To schedule your stay at the camp you may call 252-745-3171.

Again I would like to thank all of the churches and individuals who are supporting the camp. Just recently Black Jack, Pleasant Hill, and Juniper Chapel all got together and sponsored a night of singing. The fellowship was great, the singing just wonderful, and they received an offering that went to the camp. Also on Saturday, May 1, Memorial Church Layman's League sponsored a BBQ dinner-supper combination with all the proceeds going to the camp. Peace Church was unable to

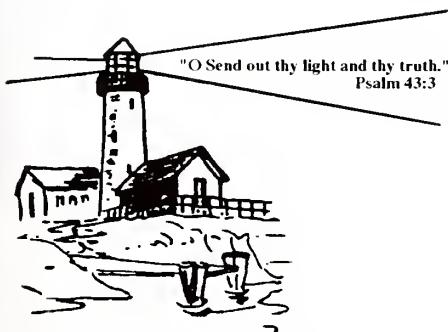
help during our cleanup day due to having a walk-a-thon for the camp. This sounds like a lot, but keep in mind that the camp is taking a giant step of faith by placing our manager and his family on campus full time, year round. Please continue to pray for the Lord's guidance for the camp and its board of directors.

Don't forget our Lighthouse Keeper's Club we told you about last month. By being a part of this vital ministry, you will become a partner in the camp's vision to see lost people won to the Lord, and saved people grow in His love and knowledge. When you apply, you will receive a decorative certificate symbolizing your support for the camp. After you have fulfilled your commitment, you will have the privilege of either sending one individual to any scheduled camp, or staying two nights in our family sleeping lodge, or spending one week in our camping facilities with water and electric hookup.

One may join by sending a donation of \$120. You may contribute on a monthly basis by donating \$10 for twelve months. When you send your check, please write on it "Lighthouse Keeper's Club" so our treasurer will know what your donation is for and we can send you your certificate. You may send your donations to Mrs. Judith Kennedy, 933 N NC 41, Pink Hill, NC 28572.

Don't forget our all day gospel sing which will take place under the big tent on Saturday, August 7. There will be food, drinks, and fellowship, as well as good gospel singing. Mark your calendar and come spend the day at Camp Vandemere.

Why not just ride down to the camp, bring a fishing pole, and visit for a spell.



# Layman's League

## Layman's Executive Board Meets



*Pictured left to right: Elmer Harrell, State President; Earl Shackelford, John Newton, Harold Humbles, Frank Yarborough, Floyd Newsome, and Robert Tripp.*

The Executive Board and Promotional Committee of the NC State Layman's met at VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC, on April 1, 1999. Reaching out to other churches to charter new Layman's Leagues in various Conferences is our utmost priority. Being "Motivated and Committed" is our President's dream in order to reach our Goal.

## Calendar of Events for June

June 3

Executive Board Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC, 7:00 PM.

June 4-5

"Spiritual Life Retreat" Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, NC. Come down early or anytime Friday for fishing, entertainment, fellowship, sharing, prayer, etc., Bar-B-Cue Pig at 6:00 PM, Lodging that night (\$5.00 per person). Saturday morning breakfast at 9:00 AM, Fellowshiping Bible Messages on Sin, Salvation, Heaven, and Hell, Lunch 11:30-1:00 PM. Recreation, Prayer, Meditation. Benediction 3:30 PM, leave as you so desire.

June 7

Central Conference Laymen's League, Ormondsville FWB Church, 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business meeting.

## State Layman's League Convention

Marsh Swamp Original Free Will Baptist Church, Rock Ridge, NC, hosted the State Layman's League Convention on May 7, 1999. After a warm welcome by Steve Fulghum and response by Floyd Newsome, the pastors and Conferences were recognized. Special Music was sung by the Rev. Ray Wells.

The Message for the evening was presented by the Rev. David Hansley concerning "Celebrate Jesus 2000." The Call of the Harvest was explained in detail as the end of our year seems to be rushing toward us and how all of us need to get involved.

Our State Layman's League President, Elmer Harrell, brought forth the business session with several topics discussed: "Spiritual Life Retreat" at Camp Vandemere on June 4-5 Mount Olive College; the tornado disaster in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Several Churches are in the process of being chartered or have already been chartered in our Conferences. Elmer expressed that we all need to be "Committed and Motivated," and regardless of your age and health, God has something that we all can do, be it large or small, for the small things mean just as much in God's eyes as the large.

Elmer said, "I hope to see all of you laymen and your guests standing around a pig cooker at Camp Vandemere on June 4.

Fill out the registration form and send it with your \$5.00 to the the address shown on the accommodations form. Prayer, good food, fellowshiping, fine music, add a dash of Spiritual devotion, is our menu for a enjoyable weekend.



# Denominational Ministries

## *Did you know that you are in a position to help many young people?*

Each year approximately 1200 young people will attend a youth conference during the summer. As you may know Cragmont does not just minister to young people. There are many adults who visit through Church retreats and adult conferences. But the emphasis upon youth has always been a high priority. At Cragmont these young people can find something that they cannot find at other summer camps. They can be taught in the ways of the Christian faith. We can also lead them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Cheerleading camps, band camps, and other camps will not offer these things. I don't mean to convey that young people should not go to these other camps. My daughter who is now in college went to Girl Scout camp as a child. However, Cragmont is a special kind of camp that offers something special, God. Here is an excerpt from an essay that a seventh grader wrote for school as he describes his week at a summer youth conference he calls "camp."

"Have you ever been to a summer camp? Cragmont is a Christian summer camp... At Cragmont, it is fun to learn about God. Learning about God has made me a better person. The adults help me understand more about my faith."

I'm writing to offer you a job. It's not a paying job. On the contrary, it will cost you money. I urge you to consider taking on the task of helping us clear the debt we incurred renovating the main building. We are seeking gifts of \$1000.00 per family or individual. We would appreciate any gift.

The cost of the renovation project was \$168,000.00. Just think, it would only take 168 people pledging \$1000.00 to end this debt. If these people wanted to take two years to complete their pledge, that would translate into \$1.37 per day. You might be asking why we are in such a hurry to end this debt. Currently we have three summer conferences having attendance of 200 or more. While we have the bed capacity to handle these numbers, we do not have the dining facility or meeting room space suitable for these numbers. It is our desire to expand the facility to meet the demands that are now upon us. However, we do not want to begin a new building project until our current debt is out of the way. Your gift of \$1000.00 would help that happen.

Will you help? While we are asking for specific donations of \$1000.00 per individual or family, we could put your gift to good use today whether it's \$5, \$25, or \$100. If you are not in a position to make a contribution of \$1000.00, please know that all gifts are needed. Let's make Cragmont a "cool" place to be.

Your contribution is sought to improve grounds and buildings. But in reality lives are touched for the Kingdom of God. The lives of young people are greatly enriched by even just one visit to Cragmont. For all you do, please know that you have my deep heartfelt thanks.

Cragmont Assembly

## June is Cragmont Assembly Month

### Conference Schedule for 1999

"...Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord... He will teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths..." (Isaiah 2:3, NIV).

Each summer there are six youth conferences scheduled to accommodate ages that range from 9-18. These conference all share common goals. (1) To proclaim the gospel to any young person who may not know Christ. (2) To teach the Work of God so that those who are already Christians may grow in their spiritual lives. (3) To show the youth of our day that recreation and times of fun do exist in the life of the Christian. Each day the young people who attend a conference are involved in Bible classes, recreation and worship services. These are very basic attributes to the Christian's life. At home in their normal routine, sometimes young people forget to include these things in their lives. It is our fervent prayer that those attending a youth conference at Cragmont will be grounded in their faith, making them stronger Christians when they leave their mountaintop experiences.

#### **Cragmont Youth Conference**

June 14-19, 1999

Bryant Hines, 252-633-2683

PO Box 266

Cove City, NC 28523

#### **Christian Cadet Conference**

June 21 - 26, 1999

Gary Bailey, 919-735-3916

112 Crosswinds Drive

Goldsboro, NC 27530

Cont...



## Conference Schedule for 1999

### Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 28 – July 3, 1999

Janie Sowers, 252-321-7542

PO Box 824, Middlesex, NC 27557

### Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

July 5 – 10, 1999

Frankie Baggett, 252-746-7850

5403 Weyerhaeuser Road, Ayden, NC 28513

### General Youth Conference II

July 12 – 17, 1999

Chris Singleton, 910-298-3520

PO Box 162, Beulaville, NC 28518

### General Youth Conference I

July 19 – 24, 1999

Bryant Hines, 252-633-2683

PO Box 266, Cove City, NC 28523

### Youth People's Bible Conference

July 26 – 31, 1999

James Gurganus, 252-223-5251

1317 Nine Foot Road, Newport, NC 28570

### August Women's Auxiliary Conference

August 2 – 7, 1999

Teresa Ball, 252-524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530

## Morning Star Woman's Auxiliary Conference





**Ministers' Conference**  
**May 3-6, 1999**



*Minister's Program*

**June 20, 1999**  
**is**  
**Minister's Program Sunday**

Please remember this day with a gift to the Minister's Program.  
Your gift is used to help provide assistance to  
both retired and active ministers within the Convention.

For more information please contact:

Donald Fader  
PO Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513



# "The Biggest of Hearts"

Recently, we received two notes from an 8-year-old. Writing the notes himself, one word caught our attention — "give" not send. We hope you enjoy these notes as much as we did. Corey, thank you and may God always bless you in all your endeavors. The warmth and everlasting smiles you created will remain forever. It is an honor to call you "Our" friend.

March 3, 1999

Dear children,  
My name is Corey and I  
am eight years old.  
I am going to give you \$20.00.  
I hope you enjoy it  
Love  
Corey

March 30-99  
Dear boys and girls  
My name is Joshua Corey Sanderson.  
I am going to give you \$20.00.  
I hope you enjoy it.  
Your friend  
Corey.

## Hopewell Church Shares Fellowship

The children and staff experienced an afternoon of love and fellowship on Sunday, May 2, with the welcomed visit of Hopewell Free Will Baptist Church of Smithfield. Sounds of joy and laughter could be heard from Memorial Chapel, as we enjoyed the entertainment provided by Hopewell's members. Songs were sung and prayers were shared. Even "Sardina," the puppet, graced us with his energetic presence. The youth choir's beautiful voices filled the chapel and the kindness of the Woman's Auxiliary filled our hearts. Following the presentation, the group treated everyone to ice cream "w/the fixings" and drinks (Earlier, on April 13, the Woman's Auxiliary donated a TV and VCR to be used at our emergency shelter, Genesis House). As the day came to a close, our guests toured the cottages to see how the children live. Everyone met back at Memorial Chapel to ask Mr. Gary Lee, vice president, questions concerning the children and campus life. They concluded with a visit to our emergency shelter, Genesis House, Bailey, NC.

We would again like to thank the Woman's Auxiliary for their support, especially Jean McLendon, and their work for the Lord. The children and staff are extremely grateful.



Hopewell's Youth Choir



Members and Friends of Hopewell FWB Church, Smithfield, NC (pictured left).





*53rd Annual  
Homecoming*

*July 11, 1999*

*Free Will Baptist Children's Home*

**Thank You  
for supporting  
"Change For Children '99"**

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

- Paper Products
- Cross for Communion Table
- Personal Care Items
- Candlesticks for Communion Table
- Craft Materials for Summer Programs
- Parament Set
- TV
- VCR
- Playstation
- Microwave
- Teen Bible and Teen Devotional Bibles
- Computers for Cottage (est. cost \$5000)

## *Mount Olive College Dedicates Room in Honor of the Hubert & Mozelle Scott Family*

At an informal ceremony held in late April, Mount Olive College dedicated Room 115 in the Henderson Building as the Hubert and Mozelle Scott Family Room. The dedication was in honor of the Scott Family's support of educational innovation in the form of televised programming via a satellite connection between Mount Olive College and Old Dominion University.

By satellite Mount Olive College accesses the TELETECHNET distance learning program at Old Dominion University and provides an undergraduate curricula enabling a student to earn a baccalaureate degree from Mount Olive College in Health Science Management or Human Service Counseling. Coursework to support other degree programs such as business administration, criminal justice, and English communication is also offered.

"Our connection to Old Dominion University's TELETECHNET distance learning network is an example of innovative educational approaches for which Mount Olive College is becoming noted," commented Dorothy Whitley, Dean of Academic Support. Dean Whitley also noted that many of the courses offered through the TELETECHNET would otherwise be unavailable to Mount Olive College students if it were not for the generous support from the Scott Family.

According to President J. William Byrd, the satellite instructional program is another way, among many, that the Scott family supports Mount Olive College. "They also help with library development and with special student support needed in our accelerated programs for nontraditional students. I must also note Howard Scott's service on the Board of Trustees. It is assistance of this type that allows Mount Olive College to be forward-looking in its approach to education, and we are grateful to the Scott family for their assistance," he concluded.



*Pictured back row (l-r): President, J. William Byrd, Donnie Scott, and Howard Scott. Front row: Judy Scott Pate, Mozelle Scott, and Rachael Scott Crawford.*



## MOC Holds Largest Graduation Ever

Mount Olive College had 271 candidates for graduation on Saturday, May 8, at the College's forty-fifth spring commencement. It was the largest number of students to ever receive degrees from the College. Combined with the fall commencement the total number of graduates for the 1998-99 academic year comes to just over 450, which is 21% more than the 374 students who graduated during the 1997-98 year.

The candidates for the May 8 spring commencement included 71 traditional students, 44 evening students, 39 from the Goldsboro location, 51 from the New Bern location, 50 from the Wilmington location and 16 from the Triangle location. Thirty-four students were graduated with distinction including 13 summa cum laude, 11 magna cum laude, and 11 cum laude.

Dr. De Wayne Eakes, a Goldsboro native, was the guest speaker for the morning worship service. In his remarks, Eakes said, "You have spent four or more years in higher education, hopefully developing higher values, and being challenged to live by a higher standard. I ask, to whom do you look for your guiding values? I leave you with this statement as made by Dr. James 'Jim' Evans: 'The same person who has brought me this far today and will carry me the rest of the way, will guide you if you will let Him, and his name is Jesus.'"

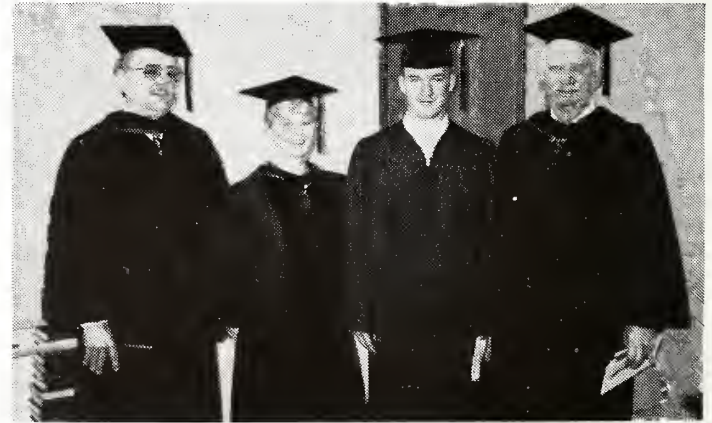
Eakes is the pastor of Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church in Lucama. He is also a religion instructor at MOC's Goldsboro location.

Phillip J. Kirk, Jr., Chairman of the NC State Board of Education, served as the commencement speaker. Kirk is a native of Rowan County and graduate of Catawba College. He serves as president and secretary of the NC Citizens for Business and Industry. He is also publisher of *North Carolina Magazine*. In his remarks, Kirk said, "The relationship which

Mount Olive College and the Free Will Baptist Church enjoy is indeed a unique one — one which should be valued, treasured, and nurtured. You recognize that academics are important, but that character, ethics, values, high morals, and leadership are equally important."

Mark Wilkinson, president of the senior class, presented the College with a replica of the Mount Olive College Seal which will be mounted in the Alumni Dining Hall in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center.

After accepting the Seal on behalf of the College, President J. William Byrd challenged the graduates with the following statement, "As you complete your formal studies at Mount Olive College, you must go forward prepared to live your best, think your best, and do your best today...for today will soon be tomorrow and tomorrow will soon be forever."



Participants in the College commencement worship service are pictured (l-r): Dr. De Wayne Eakes, Pastor of Little Rock FWB Church, Wilson County; Dr. Tyanna Day, Religion Department Lecturer; Mark Wilkinson, Senior Class President; The Rev. Frank Harrison, Campus Minister.



Dr. K. David Hines received the 1999 Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching at Mount Olive College's spring graduation. Dr. Hines is pictured with his family from (l-r): Melvin and Barbara Hines, parents; Ashley, daughter; David, Teresa, wife; Alice and J.D. Fleming grandparents.



Religion majors at Mount Olive College reenact the Lord's Last Supper during a Tuesday morning chapel service in Rodgers Chapel at Mount Olive. Pictured (l-r): John Hill, Joann Turner, Alex Armendariz, Rodney Dawson, Tommy Yopp, and Jason Young.



## The Threads that Bind

Three Mount Olive College ministerial students were recently recognized at the College's Annual Awards Day Ceremony at Rodgers Chapel. Neal Cox received the Free Will Baptist Ministerial Award; Joseph D. Williams, II "Joey" received the W. Burkette Raper Ministerial Student Award; and Michael Quintas received the 1999 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Religion. Although their experiences at Mount Olive College have been different, the common threads that bind these young men are all the same...faith, determination, perseverance, service and above all, love for the Lord and a desire to speak His gospel.

Junior, Neal Cox entered Mount Olive College in 1996 at the age of 24. He has taken courses in all of the various avenues offered through the College. He has participated in the accelerated church ministries program, as well as the traditional religion program. He leads a very busy and challenging life. He works a full-time job at the North Carolina License Plate Agency in New Bern, attends school, and he supplies at Wintergreen Original Free Will Baptist Church in Craven County. His future aspirations include becoming ordained in the Original Free Will Baptist denomination and one day seeking his doctorate degree. He also looks forward to becoming a new dad. He and his wife, Andrea, are expecting their first child in June of this year. Neal gives Andrea a great deal of credit for being so supportive during this very busy time in his life. Interestingly enough, Andrea works as a secretary with the department of Home Missions and Evangelism at the OFWB Headquarters in Ayden.

Joey Williams entered Mount Olive College two and half years ago, after completing biblical training at Carolina Bible Institute. He was 27

years old and already an ordained FWB minister and pastor of the Rose of Sharon Church in Bear Grass, North Carolina. Joey was leading a very active life of Christian ministry and service, however he still felt something was missing.

"I felt if I was going to lead people into a closer relationship with God, that I myself needed to have that closer relationship. If I was going to strive to present a more in-depth knowledge of the Scripture, then I myself wanted to have that kind of knowledge," he said.

Therefore, with the full support and encouragement from his church and family, Joey entered Mount Olive College to seek his four-year degree in Christian Ministries. He later changed his major to religion when Greek language became available. "Studying Greek has allowed me to see the Bible in 3-D color versus one dimensional black and white. It has allowed me to translate the Scripture and to convey ideas and messages instead of just single words," he commented.

Joey sees his experiences at Mount Olive College as very rewarding. "A lot of good things are occurring at the church I pastor, and I relate much of that to what I have been able to learn at the College and share with the congregation," he said. "I believe life is a gift from God. We should cherish it, enjoy it, and make every day count. When opportunities come our way, we should take advantage of them and make the most of them," he concluded.

Joey and his wife, Kenya, have one son, Hunter, who is 13 months old. Joey graduated Summa Cum

Laude from Mount Olive College in May.

Michael Quintas also graduated Summa Cum Laude and was recognized as having maintained a 4.0 grade point average. Nearing age 40, Michael is the oldest of the three students. He was ordained as a Nazarene minister in his mid 20s and spent a great deal of time ministering in this capacity, in addition to serving in the United States Marine Corps. After having served 16 years and 11 months in the US Marine Corps, Michael received a medical discharge for his debilitating arthritis. He then helped organize Victory Christian Center, a non-denominational church in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

As a part of his discharge, the Marine Corps agreed to send Michael to college to earn his ministerial degree. Michael therefore, initially selected Mount Olive College as a choice of convenience because of its location. It wasn't until a few months later into the program that Michael experienced what he called, "An awakening."

"What happened was a good, faithful, and stable Bible preacher started preaching at age 27. Now, 13 years later, I have been taken out of a narrow understanding of the Scripture and have obtained a



*Pictured (l-r) Michael Quintas, Neal Cox, and Joey Williams*

### *The Threads that Bind*

broader, more in-depth knowledge of the Word by having studied Christian ethics, Greek, biblical history, theology and ministry, and classical devotion."

As a result of his new understanding, Michael felt led to transfer to the Free Will Baptist Church. He now pastors Mount Zion Free Will Baptist Church in Pamlico County. His future aspirations

include obtaining his master's degree in 5 years and his doctorate in 10 years. He would then like to teach in a Christian college setting. Michael and his wife, Robyn, have three children.

Although Neal, Joey, and Michael have different backgrounds and have had different educational experiences at Mount Olive College, according to David Hines, Chair of the

Department of Religion, they share one compelling similarity...their outstanding potential for leadership in the Free Will Baptist Ministry. "These three young men will be future leaders in the Free Will Baptist Convention and leaders in our churches." "I'm telling you like it is," he added, "A church should not contact either of these men unless they are ready to grow."

## *New Communication Minor Offered at MOC*

The Department of Language will offer a new minor in communication and Literature beginning in fall 1999. The minor will offer students majoring in any field to take at least 18 semester hours of courses that will improve their oral and written communication skills.

According to Anthony Hatcher, Assistant Professor of English and Communication, the minor will offer diverse course selections such as public speaking, introduction to mass media, film and literature, and technical writing. "The purpose of the minor is to enable students to communicate effectively in academic and work settings, as well as introduce them to the study of communication," he noted.

A major in communication is also in development, focusing on print journalism. Future courses will include community journalism, religious journalism and sportswriting.

## *Trojans Win Fifth CVAC Crown in the 1990s*

On April 26, the Mount Olive College Trojan baseball team defeated Coker College at Fleming Stadium in Wilson to win the 1999 Carolinas-Virginia Athletics Conference (CVAC) Tournament. The victory marked Mount Olive's second consecutive CVAC Tournament crown, third in the past four years, and fifth conference championship in the 1990s. The Trojans finished their regular season 48-6 and are ranked number 6 nationally in Collegiate Baseball Division II Poll. During the opening of the CVAC tournament, it was announced that Garrett German was voted 1999 CVAC Player of the Year and Coach Carl Lancaster was voted 1999 CVAC Coach of the Year.

The Trojans advanced to the NCAA Div. II South Atlantic Regional Tournament, which was held May 13-15. This is the team's fourth consecutive trip to the regional tournament.

## *New Christian Education Minor*

Over the last several years there has been an increasing plea from the Free Will Baptist Church, as well as churches in the surrounding areas for ministers and lay persons to be equipped to carry out educational ministries within the local church. The Religion Department of Mount Olive College recognizes the vital need of Christian education in the life of the church today. Therefore, the College is enthusiastically announcing the addition of a Christian education minor to the degrees already being offered through the Religion Department.

A minor in Christian education at MOC will require a minimum of seven courses focusing on the rudiments of Christian education in the local church. Some of the course choices may include: Introduction to Christian Education, Christian Education Administration, Spiritual Formation, The Teaching Ministry of the Church, Ministry of Christian Education to Preschoolers, Children and their Families, and Ministry of Christian Education to Youth, Adults and their Families.

The new minor in Christian education will offer students the possibility of majoring in a degree of their choice, such as Business Administration, History, Human Resource Development, Music, Psychology, etc., while at the same time developing knowledge and skills that will enable them to provide the necessary leadership in a local church in the area of Christian education. This flexibility will provide a depth of service to our students and to the churches we serve.



## *It's Not too Late to Enroll at Mount Olive College!*

It's not too late to enroll at Mount Olive College! There are still some openings in classes, and there is space available in residence halls. A limited number of scholarships are available for qualified students. Mount Olive College encourages high school graduates and transfer students to complete their applications now! Fall semester opens August 25, with pre-registration already in progress.

### **New Programs**

A new major in Christian Education is available for the first time, a minor in communications is now being offered, and students can also major in environmental studies for the first time.

### **Teacher Education**

The new teacher education program is an exciting option for students wanting to complete their degrees at a private college where they can get individualized attention.

This program offers three years of study at MOC, with the fourth year in residence at ECU where teaching certification is completed. For information, call Dean Dorothy Whitley, program coordinator, at 1-800-653-0854.

### **Modular Programs in 4 locations**

Modular programs in management and organizational development are being offered nearly every month at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, New Bern, Wilmington, and the Triangle. Criminal Justice cohorts begin at least one time per semester in each location. Church Ministries cohorts are now being scheduled to begin at selected times in New Bern, Wilmington, and Mount Olive. Modular programs are 55 to 60 weeks in duration, depending on the program, and offer degree completion opportunities for individuals who already have an associate's degree or have completed

60 semester hours of college credit.

### **Accelerated General Education Courses at all locations**

Accelerated general education courses, such as English composition, religion, college algebra, science and history are now being offered at all locations. Students who do not have associate degrees or who have not earned 60 semester hours of credit (required for some modular programs) and encouraged to call 1-800-653-0854 or contact the location nearest them for course offerings. Most courses meet 4 hours a week for 5-7 weeks.

For more information call: our Mount Olive Location at 1-800-653-0854; Goldsboro Location at 734-8585; Triangle Location at 1-888-258-5188; Wilmington Location at 1-800-300-7478; or our New Bern Location at 1-800-868-8479.

## *Coming Events at Mount Olive College*

### **Private/Christian School Basketball Camp**

Private and Christian schools bring their basketball teams out for a competitive week of games and competitions in order to improve as a team and individually during their off season. For more information, call Bill Clingan at (919) 658-5056.

**Sunday – Wednesday, June 6–9 • College Hall**

### **Freshman Advising Day**

Freshmen entering Mount Olive this fall come out and register for class, take tours, talk with current students, and meet fellow classmates. For more information, contact the Admissions Office at (800) 653-0854.

**Friday, June 25 • Mount Olive College Campus**

### **Summer Session B Begins**

Classes for Summer Session B begin at Mount Olive location. People may register for classes now. For more information, contact the Admissions Office at (800) 653-0854.

**Monday, June 28 • Mount Olive College Campus**

### **Bill Clingan Basketball Camp**

This camp provides a competitive learning environment for each camper to improve his/her skill level in basketball. Fundamentals will be stressed to build a strong foundation from which to grow. Campers ages 7–15 are eligible to participate. For more information, call Bill Clingan at (919) 658-5056.

**Monday-Thursday, June 28–July 1 • College Hall**

### **Sunday Buffet**

Mount Olive College invites you to our weekly Sunday Buffet. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 years old and under (includes tax, beverage, dessert).

**Sunday • 11:30 AM • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

## Combined Commencement Exercises

by Mrs. Cerelina C. Presto

A crowd of excited people, from children to parents, filled the spacious ground at Palawan Bible College in the twilight of March 24, 1999 to celebrate the sixth Commencement Exercises of Free Will Baptist Learning Center (PBC) and the third Commencement Exercises of Jesus Christ Learning Center (Old Buncag).

The affair which was creatively and laboriously prepared by PBC students, faculty and staff was highlighted by the message of God from Psalm 37:4 expounded by Pastor Daniel Saludares based on the theme, "Sa Diyos Makakamtan Ang Pangarap" (In God we can obtain our dreams).

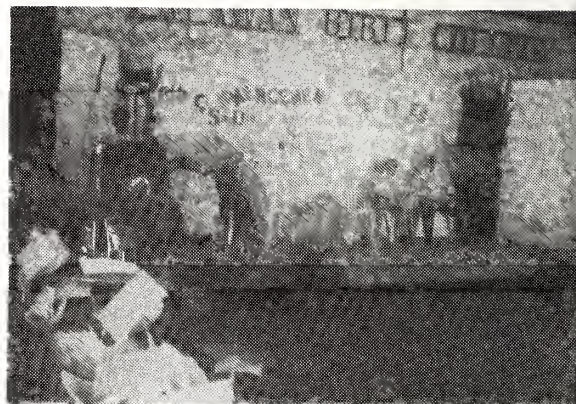
The remarkable events were the traditional presentation and confirmation of twenty-eight (28) graduating pupils by President Fidel Presto and Registrar Nora Diaz. The presentation of academic and non-academic awards to the deserving pupils from nursery to kindergarten II by the kindergarten teachers: Miss Marvie Flores, Benita Presto, Adelia Cuba and Aida Sabandal. The distribution of certificates to the tiny hand of the graduates that ponders to the hearts of the parents and the expression of gratitude to the Alma Mater, teacher and parents heartily uttered by first honor Adaiah C. Presto.

Other number of significance were the dancing dolls performed by PBC students, the musical offering when the graduates sang and pinned corsages to their supportive parents. And the awaited journey by riding in an airplane float in their ambition attire made the affair difference.

The occasion was also witnessed by B.O.T. President Rev. Pio dela Rosa, Administrator Rev. Antonio Samones and other Free Will Baptist workers.

The success of the program owed much to the efforts of PTA President Armando Manzano, Decoration committee Warlita Franco, PBC Alumnus Bernabe Bungalso, President Fidel Presto, faculty and students as working force of the college.

Please pray for the graduates as well as the parents that the SEED implanted and Christian virtues which were introduced by the FWB Learning Center will not end in vain.



*Commencement Exercises (P.I)*



*This airplane float was made by using a jeepney as the frame for the airplane.*

## Kosovo Refugee Fund Update

Your response to the need of the "Kosovo Refugees" has been tremendous. We have received \$24,950, as of May 11. The Bulgarian Government decided not to set up refugee camps in Bulgaria, but opted to aid the refugees in Albania and Macedonia. We have, therefore, decided to direct our aid to these two countries. Willem visited Skopje, Macedonia, beginning on May 14. He met with church leaders and the Director of "Ancient World Missions," Barth Companjen. We will be working through this organization to best aid the refugees.

If you would like to help, please send your check made payable to the Board of Foreign Missions, earmarked "Kosovo Refugee Fund." (Address: PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513).



# They Come Together

by Janan

Usually the children don't leave their homes when the weather is very cold, rainy, and snowy. One early Sunday morning I stood in front of the window and looked outside, it was about 6:45 in the morning.

The weather was terrible. Dark clouds covered the sky, strong winds were blowing hard and icy cold rain came down to the earth. (We got it all: snow, sleet, and icy rain.)

Then I thought: "Nobody will come today, because the weather is too bad. Probably we will have our Bible lesson on Tuesday."

A wrong thought! Like always they were coming between 7 and 7:30. They were coming alone and two by two. Some were wearing hats, others covered their heads with plastic bags. When I opened the door of the classroom they shot in like bullets, saying: "Janan it is very cold, it is very cold! The wind could blow me up into the sky. Do you have some hot chocolate-milk for us?" That they are so determined to come to their Bible class thrills me, it makes me very happy and thankful.

When there is sleet the people can hardly walk outside. But the children do come, sliding from the hill-roads on plastic plates or pieces of plastic.

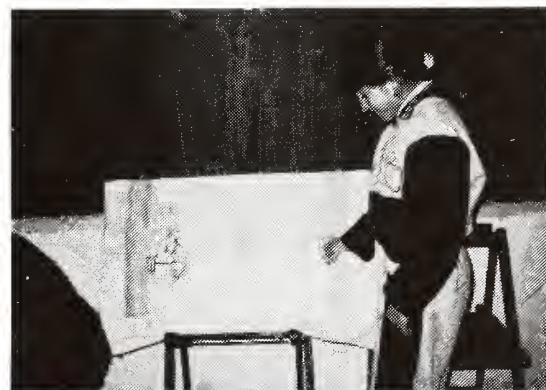
They love to be together with us on Sundays. They love to listen to the stories of the Bible, they love to make drawings of the stories or color the pictures which are related to the stories. Most of all, they love to be together and to talk together about Jesus. Togetherness is very important for our children. They like to speak about "we" instead of "I," for them it is "us" instead of "me." Collective thoughts is part of their culture.

We pray for all of them that the seeds of the gospel will grow in their hearts, in their minds and that they will provide fruit to the Kingdom of the Lord. We pray that they all may

be servants of the Lord. When they come together to hear about the Lord, that out of these services will grow towards servanthood so that they too can gather together those who haven't heard about the Saviour Jesus Christ.



*They come together.*



## Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Opportunity 2000

Now is the time to pray and act if you are considering joining a Short-Term Team next year. The dates are:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| April 1-16   | Philippines                               |
| June 17-22   | Mexico (This team already has 15 members) |
| July 15-25   | Mexico                                    |
| August 12-22 | Mexico                                    |

Short-Term Team ministry is for all ages:

- |             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Philippines | 18 years old and up |
| Mexico      | 13 years old and up |

A life changing experience awaits you! So make your plans NOW. Call 252-746-4963 for information and an application.

Join us in prayer for the 1999 teams to Mexico.

# June

Pray  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Things  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

SUN	MON	TUE	
30	31	1	2
6	7 Central Conference Layman's League Ormondsville FWB Church	8	9
			June Women
13	14 Flag Day	15	16
			Cragmont
Mexico Short-Term			
20 Minister's Program Sunday  Father's Day	21	22	23
			Cragmont
Mexico Short-Term Teams • June 12-22			
27	28 MOC Summer Session B begins	29	30
			Cragmont Youth

**THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES**





# Book Fair



On March 18, A Book Fair was held at Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Plymouth, the Rev. Everette Harper Pastor. It was a great success, people bought books for themselves and their church library. If you are interested in having a Book Fair at your church contact Lexine Davis, Bookstore Coordinator at 252-746-6128 ext. 226 or 1-800-849-3927. We will be happy to help you in any way possible.





# VBS Workshop Held

The FWB Press held its annual VBS Workshop on March 12 and 13. Barbara Griffin, a representative from Standard Publishing, presented both programs and did a wonderful job. It was a great success with 61 churches in attendance. Don't miss this experience next year, plan now to attend in 2000.







### **Pamlico County FWB Woman's Auxiliary Annual Tea**

On March 14, 1999, the 4th annual county-wide tea party was hosted by Mt. Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church Woman's Auxiliary, Vanceboro, NC, and Wildwood Circle Members.

When the idea originated to hold a tea party, it was the hope to create a unity between churches in the county and spirits of the women. Both goals were achieved in such a fulfilling way, it was agreed by all that it should be an annual event.

The "tea" has since rotated to Rock of Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Wardens Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church and then back to Mt. Zion for this year.

The ladies enjoy music, laughter, refreshments, games, and always an inspiring devotion. In addition to this year's devotion, a short memorial service was presented by State Woman's Auxiliary Program Prayer Chairman, Happy Taylor. Deceased members of the auxiliaries were honored. This was very appropriate since the auxiliary devotion guide for 1999 is "Remembering the Past, Entering the Future."

Mt. Zion was very pleased to have additional state and fifth Eastern District officers in attendance. Encouragement is affirming others and the work they are doing for God. "Thank You" to all who came in support of our efforts.

The "tea" is a great time of sharing. Many ideas for your auxiliary and church can be gained through this effort. Please feel free to contact auxiliary president, Beverly Holton (252-745-4829) or Wildwood Circle president, Tina Styron (252-249-2238) with questions or for more information.



*Happy Taylor and  
Beverly Holton  
(Memorial Service)*



*Only male invited  
"Mike Quintas"  
Mt. Zion's  
new pastor.*

### **Life Membership Award**

**submitted by Mrs. Agnes Corbitt  
Western District Benevolence  
Chairman**

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies" (Proverbs 31:10).

The one we are honoring today is a very special person, not only to me, but to many people with whom she has come into contact through the years.

Our honoree is the oldest member of her church, where she has worked faithfully and diligently in every phase of the work of her church and auxiliary, serving on many committees. She taught Sunday school for many years, and has been very active in all phases of the Woman's Auxiliary. She has served as a delegate to many conventions and union meetings. She is as active as her health permits. In 1927 she married Floyd Morris. To this union were born three daughters, Mary Anna Miller, Margaret Batchelor, Elizabeth Thigpen and one son, Donald Morris. She has 12 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

With all her activities and her deep commitment to God and her church, she has lived a very active and productive life. On March 20, 1999, she celebrated her 97th birthday.

Mrs. Bertha Morris of Union Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Fremont, NC, always has a smile on her face and a cheerful word from her heart for everyone. She is never too busy to help meet the needs of others. She truly lives the words of Proverbs 17:22: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine:..." I would like to present Mrs. Bertha Morris with a certificate and life membership award from the Western District Auxiliary Convention. The auxiliary pin was given by her local auxiliary, Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church.



## Marlboro WA Presents Life Membership Award

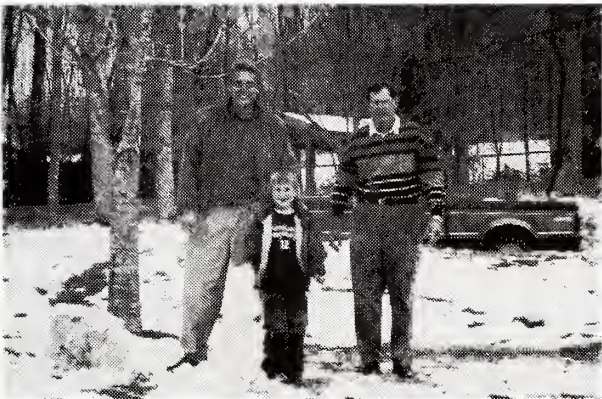
submitted by Dot Blair, President Marlboro Woman's Auxiliary

Mrs. Willie Wooten was recently honored with a Life Membership Award by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Marlboro Original Free Will Baptist Church, Farmville, NC. She was recognized and presented the Auxiliary Pin on Sunday, March 21, during the morning worship service.

Mrs. Wooten has been a devoted member of the Marlboro Church and Woman's Auxiliary for many years. She has served the Auxiliary well in many capacities. In addition, she teaches Sunday school and participates in many other church activities. The adversities of life have not altered her Christian faith. She is an inspiration to those who know her.

## Holly Springs' Cragmont Retreat

The Rev. Ray Conner, his son Marcus, and Deacon Travis Davis of Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church, Newport, NC, enjoy making a snowman while at a rest stop in Cherokee, NC. The three were taking part in the annual Cragmont Retreat sponsored by the Ladies' Sunday School Class, March 25-28, 1999.



Pictured is one of the oldest and most faithful members of the Holly Springs Ladies Sunday School Class, Pat Gurganus (center). On the left is her son Phil Gurganus and on the right is her daughter Florine Slaughter. The three were enjoying the rocking chairs and fireplace in the assembly hall during the Cragmont Retreat.



## Congratulations, Graduates

by Rita Otto Jones

June brings graduation exercises. Congratulations to all graduating seniors and especially to two young men from Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, Daniel Cole and Jeremy Jones. Let God lead you and you will be on the right road.

Remember our youth as they attend camp at Cragmont this month. The July week they had hoped to attend was already full, so they are going earlier than last year. We hope they enjoy the fellowship and Christian growth with the other campers.

We will have Vacation Bible School beginning on Sunday, June 27 with commencement on Friday evening, July 2. This year's theme is station WSFJ We Shine For Jesus. Teachers are getting prepared and we are looking forward to having a good number in attendance.

Powhatan hosted a District Study Course on April 13 with Jean Ackiss, speaker. There was a good number of hand and many prayers went up that evening. Our thanks to her for coming and sharing with us.

The Cape Fear Conference held its Bible Bowl on Saturday, April 17, at Lee's Chapel in Dunn. Our teams were nervous and the Rev. Bogle came and held prayer with us before we left. He said he hoped we'd return victorious. We told him the victory had already been won with all the studying and learning of the Bible. The AFC and YFA teams both took first place! Congratulations to our youth for their poise during the games and knowledge of the Word and to Robert's Grove teams for their second place victory. Team members were AFC : Nikki Jones (captain), Crystal Guy, Nicole Lee, Will Allen, and Clay Coats; YFA: Chris Bagley (captain), Cynthia Narron, Dani Allen, and Roberta Widhalm. A second round of congratulations are due for the state level victories on May 1 at Mount Olive College. The Powhatan AFCs brought home the beautiful first place plaque and the YFAs took second place honors. Other churches with teams participating were Winterville and Black Jack. Seeing the youth display their knowledge of the Scripture was truly a blessing. Congratulations to all who participated and thank you to Martha Parsons, Angela Honeycutt, and all the judges, moderators, etc., who helped make it happen.

*In Memoriam:* Mrs. Annie Mae Allen went to be with the Lord on April 15, 1999. Please remember her family as well as the many friends who will miss her at Powhatan.



## Mount Olive Students Visit Paul Palmer Conference

by Marci R. Rollins

Several months ago on a trip back from Sandy Plain Church, Mrs. Dianne Riley asked me if I would like to go on a trip later in the year with her and other members of the Ministry Effectiveness Team at Mount Olive College to Blakely, Georgia. Having done work with the St. Cloud Mission Church in Florida on two different occasions while I was a member of "All 4 Him" in high school, I was eager from the beginning to visit the Paul Palmer Conference in Georgia. I felt like the day for us to leave would never get here, but on April 16, at 1:00 PM David Allen, a junior from Ahoskie, David Smith, a junior from New Bern, Maria Nichols, a sophomore from Wilson, Sharon Zirkle, a sophomore from Woodbridge, Virginia, Kristen Gibson, a freshman from Seven Springs, Angie Bell, a freshman from Albemarle, Mrs. Riley and I (Marci Rollins from Pikeville) boarded a

college van to begin our eleven-hour journey to the home of some of the most enthusiastic Christians I have ever met.

Blessed with safe travel, we arrived at the home of David and Hallie Still around midnight. Immediately, I knew this would be a trip to remember. The Stills and other church members were waiting for us with open arms and cheerful faces. We unloaded and split up to go to the member's houses. I had the pleasure of staying with the Stills. After making sure that there was not an empty stomach in the house, Mrs. Hallie led us to our rooms where we enjoyed a good night's rest. The next morning was the Paul Palmer Conference held at Zion Church. Angie and I mimed, David Smith and Maria sang, David Allen gave a devotion, and the entire group sang together. Members of the convention held their business session led by

moderator, the Rev. Jim Pelt. We adjourned for a delicious covered-dish dinner. As I entered the fellowship hall I looked at Mrs. Hallie and said, "I see that good eating is something that all Free Will Baptist know how to do!" It was like having Homecoming at my home church, Goldsboro, First Free Will Baptist! After lunch we joined back together in the sanctuary for one of the most spirit-filled services I have ever experienced. As our group was miming and singing, we felt Zion Church fill with that sweet, sweet spirit we often sing of in church.

But the best part was yet to come. We went back to the Still's home and prepared for the service for Sunday. David Allen, Mrs. Riley, and I visited with Mrs. Bernice Still to talk about the history of the Paul Palmer Conference. After a short trip to Alabama and a visit to the Chattahoochie River's dam, we returned to the Still's residence to meet close to fifty young people and their parents from Zion and Jakin Churches, at the Still's house. We had a night of hamburgers and food, mixed with games and devotions. Having a soft spot in my heart for little kids, I took a group of the younger ones into the den to watch Veggie Tales, a video that entertains children while teaching a Bible lesson. It touched my heart when one of the little girls came to me later and wanted to watch the video again. She crawled up into my lap and I knew that my call from God to work with children was real. I felt a love for that little girl that I knew came from Jesus. I saw her childlike faith as she watched the video and prayed that God would continue to work in her life.

Sunday morning was spent with Angie and me teaching the kindergarten and first grade Sunday

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## Youth Scholarship Awarded

submitted by Cathy B. Creech

On April 7, 1999, Rick Winder of Fremont Original Free Will Baptist Church, Fremont, NC, was selected to receive the first Western District Youth Scholarship in the amount of \$500. Rick is the current Treasurer for the Western District Youth. Prior to this term of office he served as the district's Recording Secretary for one term. In his church he is a member of the YFA, Youth Choir, a VBS volunteer, and participates in the Youth Visitation Program. While Rick was in high school at Charles B. Aycock, he played in the marching and jazz bands. He presently volunteers there, helping his former band director. Rick is currently in his freshman year at Wayne Community College. He is employed at Cardinal Country Club near Pine Level.

This scholarship is offered to high school seniors and college students from the Western District by the Western District Youth. The selection committee is made up of the district's Women's Auxiliary Executive Committee.





### Mount Olive Students Visit Paul Palmer Conference

school class and Sharon, Kristen, and Maria leading the Senior High Sunday school class. Then the entire group shared our talents once more during the morning service. We were followed by an inspiring message from Brother Travis Sturgill on the Testimony of Three Trees from Job 14: 7-9. We left church and returned to the Still's home once more. Being a Sunday tradition, all of Mrs. Hallie's family were there for another covered-dish dinner that was like having homecoming all over again. The time for our departure came all too soon. As everyone gathered

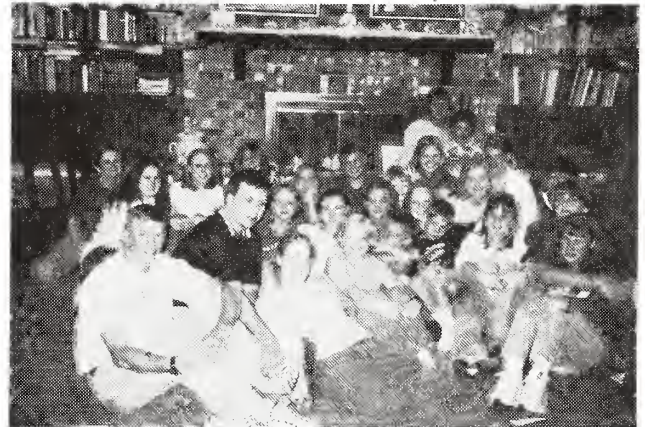
around for picture taking and farewells, I began to realize how close the people in Blakely, Georgia had become to our group from Mount Olive in such a short time. The people there are the dearest people I have ever met. They took us into their homes and treated us just like family. And they were just as sad to see us leave as we were to go. The love and fellowship I experience on that trip changed my life and gave me a revival in my soul that will enable me to carry on with the ministry of God. I hope to one day return...only I hope the next trip will be longer!



*The Rev. Jim Pelt, moderator of the Paul Palmer Conference, with Marci Rollins.*



*Mrs. Dianne Riley (left) with the Ministries Effective Team (MET) from Mount Olive College, along with the pastor of Zion Church*

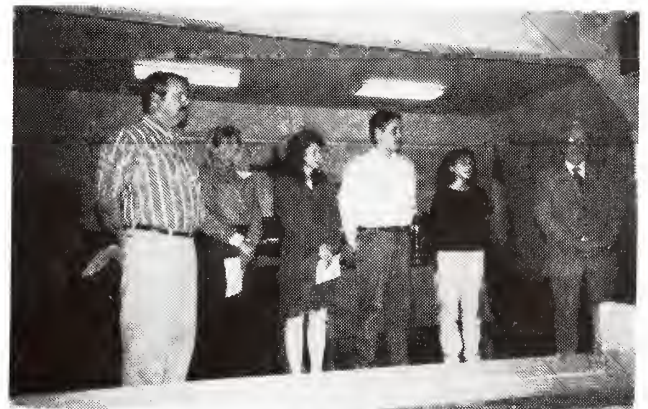


*The Paul Palmer Conference Youth.*

### Faith Church Experiencing Growth

Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church, Morehead, NC, is growing in "leaps and bounds," according to Delores B. Mason, public relations director for the church. In January the church received three new members. In March three members were received through baptism and two by letter.

Recent new member (l-r): Michael Willis, Sandy Willis, Debbie Burney, Daniel Fisher, and Megan Fisher. The pastor is the Rev. James Gurganus, shown on the right.





## Convention of Free Will Baptist Leagues

The League Convention met at Aspen Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Fountain, NC, on April 17, 1999, for an exciting day of worship. The theme for the day was "Out of This World" based upon the verse from John 15:19. We were reminded throughout the day that "The World Is Not My Home," that we are just passing through and must leave the fragrance of Christ.

A warm welcome was extended by Diane Windham of the Aspen Grove League. Amanda Schlaepfi from the Goldsboro League brought the response. A devotion that reminded us that God sees us through the most hectic times as we travel the paths of this world was shared by Clair Taylor, vice president of the League Convention.

Following the business session, we had a wonderful time cheering youth and adults during the Sword Drill. What a great way to be reminded that the journey on this sod is made easier if we are immersed in the Word of God. Our winners for 1999 are, for adults: first place, Beverly Schlaepfi; second place, Sharlene Howell; third place, Margaret Ard, all from Goldsboro Free Will Baptist Church. Juniors: first place, Amanda Schlaepfi; second place, Timothy Howell from Goldsboro; third place, Rebecca Joyner from Hickory Chapel.

Special music presented by Aspen Grove prepared our hearts as we entered our worship time. The program, "Mary Magdalene" was prepared by Heather White and Clair Taylor from Hickory Chapel.

The convention came to a close with the traditional Singspiration with Aspen Grove and Goldsboro sharing their talents. Our spirit soared and we renewed our promise to march forth as "Christian Leaguers" as we remembered, "...the LORD watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from other" (Genesis 31:49).

It was a great day filled with joyful fellowship with other Christians. Make plans to join us in 2000 on March 18.

## Churches Participate in "Relay for Life"

While it may be common to catch Free Will Baptists "meeting and eating," this time the cause was a little different. Members of the Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC, participated in Greene County's Second Annual Relay for Life, the major fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The Relay was held April 23 and 24 at the Greene Central High School track field.



While our church was represented by a fifteen-member team, named "Fishers of Men," the project was a church-wide effort. A luncheon was held in March raising over \$800. In addition to the lunch and several corporate sponsorships, each member raised over \$100 individually, bringing our team total to \$5,527.

Raising our money beforehand took the pressure off for the weekend and left room for lots of fun. We began pitching our tents Friday afternoon. We had our campsite ready just in time for the opening ceremony which included several moving speakers. The Relay began with the first lap being led by many cancer survivors. The effort was bittersweet. While it was encouraging to see so many survivors of this common disease, it was very sad to note those who had lost the battle with cancer since last year's Relay. After the survivors' lap, each of the forty-three teams kept at least one member walking on the track at all times. Of course, when we weren't walking, we were eating and socializing.

Most of us fought the cold and wind and stayed all night. Around midnight, the adults seemed to wind down, but the kids were just getting started. The event offered much for children — a dunking booth, face painting, clowns, games — but best of all, no baths, toothbrushes or bedtimes. What more could a child ask for?

The event ended Saturday afternoon with a closing ceremony that praised all for the job well done. The Relay raised over \$98,000 with a



large percentage being raised by local churches of many different denominations. Several other Free Will Baptist churches in the county participated. They included Hull Road (\$3,836), Friendship (\$2,615), Free Union (\$3,536), Mt. Calvary (\$1,738), Spring Branch



## *Martin Rowe awarded Eagle rank during Court of Honor ceremony*

Martin Wesley Rowe, son of Wesley and Judy Rowe of Kenly, received Boy Scouting's highest rank Sunday afternoon during a special ceremony at Kenly Free Will Baptist Church, on April 25, 1999. He received the Eagle rank, a position that fewer than four percent of all Scouts ever achieve.

A senior at North Johnston High School, where he is active in sports, Mr. Rowe was presented the Eagle Award during a Court of Honor convened by assistant Scoutmaster Eric Boyette at 3:00 PM in the local church. He explained that it is proper for the award to be presented in church because reverence to God is part of the Scout's oath and law.

A Scout must advance through a series of requirements, including 21 merit badges, to achieve the Eagle rank. He also must complete a project that shows his leadership ability and

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### *Churches Participate in "Relay for Life"*

(\$2,000), and most impressively, Harrell's Chapel whose two teams raised a combined total of \$11,858.

While the Relay gave our church members the opportunity to fellowship together, it also gave us the chance to "let our little light shine" for Jesus. It is our Christian duty to help our fellow man and that is exactly what the money raised by the event does by funding cancer research and preventative education and providing services that offer different kinds of assistance to cancer patients. What better way to demonstrate a Christian testimony than by putting "love thy neighbor" into action. We encourage all churches to participate next year in your local Relay for Life. It is wonderful to prove to the community that "through Christ, all things are possible."



*Martin Wesley Rowe*

has a lasting benefit to the community.

Mr. Rowe's project included building dugouts at Kenly Area Parks and Recreation Center.

Marcia Evans played the prelude during the afternoon service. Color guard John Perry Wise and Jeffrey Davis presented the colors. Kenly Free Will Baptist Church member Donnie Jones sang the National Anthem.

Scout Walton Boyette led the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance. Scout Mark Stewart led scouts in reciting the 12 points of the Scout Law.

Scoutmaster Ronnie Boyette welcomed family, friends and guests of the Rowe family and introduced members of Kenly Boy Scout Troop 29's leadership staff. He also introduced all Eagle Scouts who were in attendance.

Rev. James Joyner offered the invocation and led in congregational singing.

Assistant scoutmaster Boyette asked honor guard ushers Jamey Wilkinson and Justin Rogerson to escort Mr. Rowe and his parents to the front of the church.

The Eagle badge was presented by Mr. Rowe to his mother, who pinned it on him. He gave her an Eagle pendant necklace. Mr. Rowe presented his father with an Eagle tie tack.

Assistant scoutmaster Chris Coats offered the Eagle Challenge to Mr. Rowe. He told Mr. Rowe that he would forever be a marked man because others would look to him for leadership. He challenged him to lead in the right direction and to uphold the tradition of all the Eagle Scouts who have traveled before him.

Scoutmaster Boyette, in his scoutmaster's minute, recalled that on one camping trip in which scouts would have to hike to a campsite carrying all of their supplies, that Mr. Rowe had a unique way of getting his equipment to the site. "He showed up pulling a red wagon," said Mr. Boyette.

Pastor Joyner offered the benediction and invited the attendees to a reception in the church fellowship hall.

"I would like to thank Scoutmaster Ronnie Boyette and assistant scoutmaster Chris Coates and Eric Boyette for their many years of dedicated service to the Kenly Boy Scout troop, and for the influence that they have had on my life. Each of them has shown understanding, consideration and love for me as I have worked to achieve this rank," said Mr. Rowe in a note in the service program. "I would like to thank my family for their love and support, but most of all, I give thanks to God for giving me the strength and ability to achieve this Eagle Scout rank."

Other Scouts participating in the ceremony include W. D. Brock, who was Eagle badge bearer, Patrick Pittman who presided at the guest register and Michael Holloman who assisted with programs. —*Reprinted from "Kenly News."*



## Our Old-Fashioned Tent Revival

Four nights of an Old Fashion Tent Revival were held April 25-28, 1999. Bethany, Little Creek, Ormondsville, and Saints Delight Original Free Will Baptist Churches hosted the event on the grounds of Little Creek Free Will Baptist Church in the Scuffleton community.

Debbie and J.R. Bowen, Jackie McLawhorn, and Donald Stokes performed during each night's service, which began at 7:00.

The master of ceremonies was Dr. Charles Russell, President of Pitt Community College. Congregational songs were lead by Spencer Owens. The pastors of the four churches also participated. They are the Revs. Mark Hogan, Bethany; Frank Flowers, Little Creek; Don Ribeiro, MD, Ormondsville; Jack Weathersby, Saints Delight.

A combined choir with members from all four churches sang each night. Accompaniment was provided by Wanda Forrest and Judy Jones on keyboard, by Erwin Hines on bass, and Sammy Jones on drums.

Bethany and King's Cross Roads presented a puppet ministry the first two nights of the revival. We were blessed with a great deal of special music. Groups and individuals shared their talents with us each night. "Called Out," "Acts of Mercy," "In One Accord," and "Movin Up" were the groups that attended. Individuals included Allen Ham, Joe Smith, Keli Hogan, and Gina Tripp.

The guest speaker was Dr. Fred Hartman, joined by his wife Joan, who blessed us with her talent as a violinist.

Dr. Hartman has been in the ministry for fifty years and his knowledge of Biblical prophecy is outstanding. He has

a special way of making the Scriptures come alive. His teachings allow the average Christian or non-Christian to understand and be able to apply Scripture to their lives.

Overall attendance was estimated at 1300 people, despite the cool and rainy weather.

A special thanks goes out to everyone who contributed in anyway — the parking attendants, Nursery Workers, Greene County Sheriff's Department, Maury Rescue, Johnson Music, and many others.

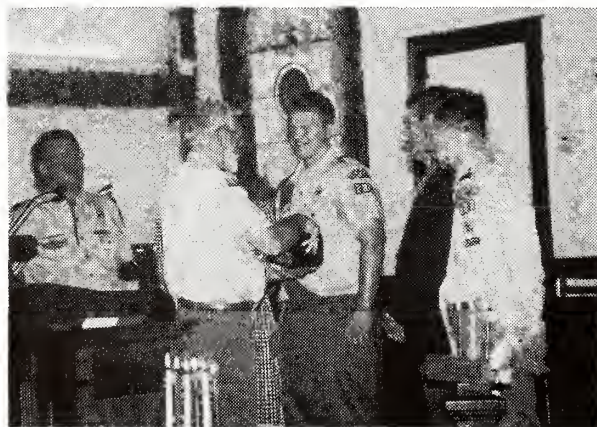
A very special thanks to Free Will Baptist Home Missions for the use of the tent and all their equipment.

The most important thanks goes to Our Lord God Almighty for His divine blessing on all that was accomplished.



## Eagle Scout Award Presented

Bryan Hunter Tripp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory L. Tripp of Winterville, NC, received his Eagle Scout award at a ceremony at Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC, on May 2, 1999. Ashley Dail conducted the Court of Honor, which was presided over by Dr. Don Ribeiro, pastor of Ormondsville Church. Eagle Scouts of B.S.A. Troop 200 of Winterville assisted in the ceremony. Eagle escort was Christopher Elks, Bryan's cousin. Emily Tripp, Bryan's sister, presented a poem, and cousin, Glenn Forrest, made remarks about the importance of the Eagle award in his life. Approximately 150 family and friends attended.



Bryan began Scouting at the age of five with the Winterville Scouts. He has held the positions of Den Chief, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Bryan is a Brotherhood Member of the Order of Arrow. With help from fellow Scouts, Scout leaders, and friends, Bryan completed his Eagle Project, the installation and landscaping of American, Christian, and North Carolina flags at Ormondsville Church.

Bryan presented roses to his mother, sister, and grandmother, Lillian Tripp Walls, to show appreciation for support in the completion of his Eagle project. At the conclusion of the ceremony, everyone was invited to a reception in the Church Fellowship Hall. Bryan's family and friends provided delicious refreshments. Memorabilia of Bryan's years in scouting were on display.



## Smyrna Youth Conduct Services

The youth of Smyrna Church, Cape Fear Conference, are in charge of both Sunday school and worship services every fifth Sunday. Pictured are scenes of the last fifth Sunday service.



Members of the Beginners' class singing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." It seems Jamie Lyn has to get her shoe fixed before she can sing.



Elliott McCounell singing "He's Still Working On Me." Elliott just recently moved into the Primary Class.

## Deep Run Youth Participate in Youth Leadership Program

The youth of Deep Run Original Free Will Baptist Church, Deep Run, NC, were part of a youth leadership program sponsored by the Kinston Toastmasters Club #962. The class was taught by Elwood Hill, who is both president of the Kinston Toastmaster Club and Area Governor of Area 25, District 37 of Toastmasters International.

The students were given the opportunity to improve their verbal communication skills through public speaking classes and the opportunity to present both prepared speeches and impromptu speeches. Elwood Hill was assisted by Toastmaster Chris Grubbs (son of the pastor Adrain Grubbs) and by Carlton Jenkins, retired AG teacher from South Lenior High School.

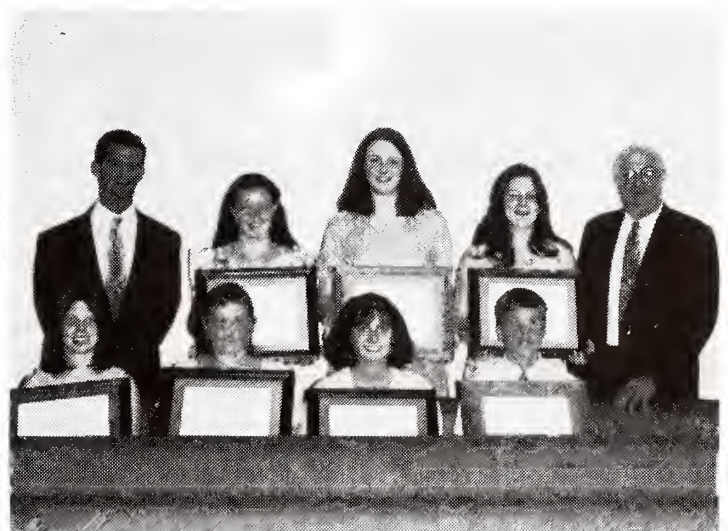
The students met a total of nine times. The meetings were from one hour to one and a half hours. On Easter Sunday during the church hour, the students were rewarded with the presentation of a certificate from Toastmasters International stating that they had completed the Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program.

Similar Youth Leadership programs may be available from the Toastmaster Clubs in your area. For additional information about a Toastmasters Club in your area check the Internet @[Toastmasters.org](http://Toastmasters.org).

The programs are free of charge to the students and are

an excellent way to improve a young person's ability to communicate in front of a group.

In the picture: bottom row, left to right: Rhonda Beth Houston, Jennifer Brown, Sara Benson, Trey Sloan; back row: Toastmaster Chris Grubbs, Amanda Hill, Sandy Howell, Hillary Smith, Elwood Hill, President Kinston Toastmaster. Not pictured is Angie Stewart and Carlton Jenkins.





## Annual Pinewood Derby Held at Deep Run

The Deep Run Cub Scouts Pack 447 held their annual Pinewood Derby event at Deep Run Original Free Will Baptist Church with all members participating in the annual event. The Pinewood Derby is a father and son competition with the building and the racing of a small wooden car which has been "built" by the son under a very "close supervision" of the father. The cars are designed for speed and looks and this represents the ultimate competition for young cub scouts and their young fathers. In the picture are the cubs who participated in the event. Left to right: Andrew Beamon, overall winner for Pack 447 and who placed fourth for his age group at the district level; Troy Smith, David Hill; Second row: Logan Hardy, Zeke Hardy, Landon Price, Briley Taylor, Brandon Potter, Den Chief; Back Row: Becky Bulter, Assistant Cubmaster; Greg Smith, Assistant Cubmaster; T.C. Beamon, Den Leader; Bill Taylor, Den Leader; and Elwood Hill, Cubmaster.

Deep Run church has been the sponsoring organization for Cub Pack 447 for the past 35 years and we would highly endorse the use of Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting as a part of the youth program for the church.



*Happy Father's Day  
from the Free Will Baptist Press*

## Ode to Graduating Seniors

Twelve years ago these seniors boarded the learning train,  
It was a journey to improve the body and sharpen the brain.

Mom and Dad left them at a place called the school,  
The first teacher said: "education is only a learning tool."

One must develop muscle, morals, and insight for himself,  
They are important, they must not become dusty on a shelf.

If you are brightly brilliant and lack self-control.  
You are educated, a failure story to be often told and retold.

You have attended school 12 years, but life teaches too,  
Spiritual direction is available, ask God to see you thru.

Your greatest growth should be from within,  
Listen for the small voice which directs away from sin.

You can never go wrong in following God's way,  
The Lord will be with you, he will bless you each day.

Make the best of opportunities as the years fly past,  
What you put in your head will last and last and last.

The advice from Mom and Dad will help you hold fast.  
Old home-town memories are happy, sacred and sad,

One, you recall the most, is sharing quiet time with Dad.

There are fond memories from around the big eating table,  
Mom filled every inch, as long as she was able.

Dad has grown older and cannot do as much,  
Mom still keeps house, she has the Midas touch.

Both have made it plain, the Seniors are to excell,  
A buzzing is heard, it's the call of the college school bell.

So, men and women, it's time to reboard the train,  
Your education is not over, you must continue feeding your brain.

2 Timothy 2:15 — Study to shew thyself approved unto God,  
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing  
the work of truth.

Dedicated and written  
to Seniors 1999 Union Grove Church

Dr. Billy R. Yawn, April 28, 1999

To whom it may concern:

This is to give notice that Odell Morris is  
not an ordained Original Free Will Baptist  
minister.

— Western Conference  
Ordaining Council



## *North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*

### Theme:

"I will prepare him an Habitation."

### Scripture:

"The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation: my father's God, and I will exalt him" (Exodus 15:2).

What a Great Day in the Lord's Work! These words were heard from wall to wall, over and over again recently in the Pleasant Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, North Carolina. On May 13, 1999, the Seventy-Second Annual Session of the NC Woman's Auxiliary Convention was hosted by the Western District Woman's Convention. Preliminaries included registration at 8:30 AM conducted by Joan Little, Central District; call to worship by the female quartet, Servant Heart, local church; and the Woman's Auxiliary Hymn, "In The Service of the King" by congregation.

The session was called to order by President Carolyn Jernigan, Cape Fear District, followed by devotions given by Teresa Grubbs, Albemarle District. Teresa focused her remarks on the poem entitled "If Jesus Came to Your House." Her message was a realistic reminder about making preparations for a visit by Jesus versus a visit from any other person, (your everyday life versus your spiritual life). Teresa challenged everyone to examine their spiritual house today. Prayer was given by Linda Baker, Cape Fear District.

The happy welcome remarks were given by Betty Lynch, Western District President, followed by a gracious response from Ava Edwards, Pee Dee District. Announcements about the church facilities and the noon meal were explained by Tempie Jones, President of Pleasant Grove Auxiliary.

Prior to the first business session, very hearty, happy greetings were expressed by President Carolyn Jernigan to the outstanding number in attendance, including North Carolina

state officers, all local auxiliary officers, delegates, visitors, and ministers. President Jernigan appointed the Standing Convention Committees: Registration and Credentials, Finance and Resolutions. Each committee's report was to be given in the second business session. The convention offering was received, followed by the offertory prayer by Sondra Thick, Western District. The response was by the Servant Heart Quartet.

Next, the Life Membership Award was explained and presented by Committee Chairperson, Becky Jo Sumner, assisted by the North Carolina Youth Convention officers. After very outstanding biographical facts and church related service remarks, the winner was announced. The recipient was Mrs. Jean Ackiss, a dedicated, faithful and deserving worker among North Carolina Original Free Will Baptists. In a teary-eyed, emotional acceptance speech, Mrs. Ackiss expressed appreciation to all auxiliary and church members for their support and cooperation in making her efforts- and work successful.

Following the break at 10:45 AM, the Cragmont Choir, led by Alma Dale Cox, blessed our hearts with several songs from the Cragmont songbook, concluding with the Woman's Auxiliary hymn sung by the Servant Heart quartet. Next, a beautiful memorial service was conducted by Judy Thuamum, Eastern District. Judy entitled her remarks "Light" based on several Scriptures from Psalms, I John, Revelation, Matthew and Proverbs. She asked that everyone remember someone to memorialize that had been

a shining light in their spiritual lives. The memorial service ended with a duet and prayer.

The Convention speaker, Dr. W. Burkette Raper, Director of Planned Giving, Mount Olive College, was introduced by Happy R. Taylor, State Program-Prayer Chairman. Mrs. Taylor stated, in addition to her biographical facts, that Dr. Raper was so well-known among all Original Free Will Baptists, that he really did not need an introduction. Dr. Raper prefaced his message with remarks of the importance of this occasion, giving him the opportunity to say "Thanks," especially to all North Carolina Auxiliary members. Dr. Raper expressed appreciation for their support to him, both financially and otherwise, beginning with his stay at the Middlesex Orphanage and then for his years spent at Mount Olive College. His message focused on these words: 1) Vision, 2) Faith, 3) Commitment, as they apply to each individual. He used Scripture from Exodus, Hebrews, Genesis, and others; and asked each one to meditate on having visions and faith to commit ourselves to fulfill our visions. Dr. Raper concluded with the statement that vision, faith, and commitment merge into the Road of Peace. The worship service ended with a congregational hymn, "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us."

During the second business session, reports from denominational ministries were given. The ministries represented were: Home Missions, Mount Olive College, Children's Home, Foreign Missions, FWB Press Foundation, and Retirement Homes. Each person expressed thanks and

### *North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*

asked for continued support and prayers. Due to the absence of David Hansley, Fred Baker brought greetings from the General Administrator of Original Free Will Baptists. Sandra Jones, secretary, reported that each District Report was promptly received. Her compiled report was included in Convention booklet for review. The reports from the Convention standing committees were received and filed. There were two hundred twenty-two in attendance. Jean Ackiss gave a detailed report on the Anna Phillips Loan Fund and scholarship fund. It is now directed through Mount Olive College. Four resolutions were presented and accepted. A letter about Revisions of the Youth Convention officers, workshops, and new programs, "Mission Possible", was read by Martha Parson. A favorite vote for the youth work was taken. The next State Convention will be on Thursday, May 11, 2000, at Free Union Church, Albemarle District. The Convention ended with benediction and blessing by Carlee Stallard and a closing song by Servant Heart Quartet. A delicious buffet meal was enjoyed by everyone.

Thanks to each person who had a part in making this a "Great Day" in the Lord's Work.

### **OBITUARY — Dennis Irvin Harris**

Mr. Dennis Irvin Harris, 81, of 1811 Rosewood Drive, Greenville, NC, died Wednesday, April 28, 1999, after long-term physical infirmity.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 30, 1999, at 11:00 AM at First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, NC, with the Rev. Ronnie V. Hobgood officiating. Graveside service followed at Greenwood Cemetery on East Fifth Street.

Mr. Harris was born May 7, 1917, on his father's farm, the Sunshine Farm, which was located one mile north of Greenville, NC. His parents were the late Rev. Charlie Jackson "C.J." Harris, a Free Will Baptist minister, and Martha Arabella "Mattie" Woolard Harris. Mr. Harris grew up in the Greenville-Belvoir community where he was a valedictorian at Belvoir High School. On May 25, 1938, he married Josephine Florist Whitehurst of Bethel, NC, daughter of the late Cornelius Jefferson "C.J." Whitehurst and Lalage Whichard Whitehurst.

At an early age, Mr. Harris trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and joined Gum Swamp Free Will Baptist Church. At the time of his death, he was a long-term member of First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville, NC. He served in a number of positions in the church, including that of deacon.

A gifted, knowledgeable, and hard-working businessman farmer, Dennis Harris owned and operated farms in

the Belvoir, Greenville, Stokes, and Pactolus communities. In earlier years, he was employed by the U.S. Postal Service; measured farm acreage allotment for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and managed the shoe department at Blount-Harvey Company of Greenville. He was also a buyer-agent representing Lutz & Schramm of Ayden.

Mr. Harris served on and chaired several agricultural community committees and districts. He formerly was a member of the Golden K Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Harris, fifteenth of seventeen children born to his parents, was preceded in departing this life by his parents and twelve of his siblings including: the Rev. Calvin Jesse "C.J." Harris; Mattie Lenora Harris Mayo; Elba Louise Harris Ward; Charlie Benjamin Harris; Daisy Lucinda Harris Warren Tucker Moore; Preston Floyd Harris; Viola Cline Harris Brown; Gaylen Royer Harris; Charlie Wilbur Harris; Floyd Preston Harris; Roland Woolard Harris; and a younger brother not named.

He is survived by:

- His wife of 60 years, Josephine Florist Whitehurst Harris;
- Children  
Dennis Irvin Harris, Jr. and wife, Elizabeth Richardson Harris of Greenville;

Cornelius Jackson "C.J." Harris and wife, Mary Olivia Chesson Harris of Greenville;

Carolyn Jo Harris Harrington and husband, Col. Marion Rayde Harrington of Dale City, VA;

Keyma Donald Harris and wife, Nancy Jeanne Gordon Harris of Greenville;

- Sisters  
Clyde Bernice Harris Clark;  
Reba Mildred Harris Clark;  
Elsie Lucille Harris Roberson Phillips, all of Greenville;
- Brother  
Charlie Woolard Harris of Greenville;
- Grandchildren  
John Richardson Harris of Greenville;  
Mary Jo Harris and husband, David Curtis Smith of Durham;  
Sarah Olivia Harris of Greenville;  
Charles Joseph Harris of Danville, VA and fiancée, Mary Ellen Greer of Whiteville, NC;  
Sheri Lynn Harrington Matthews and husband, James Alan Matthews of Greenville;  
Dr. Christy Ann Harrington Bowling and husband, Russell Allen "Rusty" Bowling of Dale City, VA;  
Gordan Brantley Harris of Greenville;
- Great-granddaughter  
Mary Kathryn Chesson Smith of Durham.





## Celebrate Your Sunday School Leaders

### PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR WORK

- **Make a Video or Slide Show Yearbook** — Round up one or more volunteers to photograph or video tape your Christian Education activities throughout the year. (Make certain that each teacher and class gets included.) Ask students to comment on memorable things that happened in class or lessons that made an impression on them. (In the case of small children, parents can be your resource people.) Use these comments and anecdotes to create a narration to accompany the visual record. Show this “yearbook” to the church during an informal service or time of fellowship.
- **Mug a Teacher** — Most teachers don’t need help keeping the names and faces of their students in mind as they pray and prepare their lessons. But they would still appreciate owning a personalized coffee mug with a class picture on it or with the signatures of the class members painted on it. (Most photo developing services will make photo mugs and many craft stores sell china or glass paint.) Just imagine how nice it would be for a teacher to be able to settle into a cozy chair to prepare for class while sipping his or her favorite warm beverage from a mug like this. Plan a special time to publicly present the mugs to the teachers as a thank-you gift.

### EMPOWER THEM WITH KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING

- **Hold a Getting to Know You Potluck** — Kick off the new school year with a Getting to Know You Potluck to help students, parents and teachers get to know each other better. Have the teachers, parents and students each bring two or three favorite possessions with them hidden inside a paper grocery bag. (The bag will help to insure that the objects aren’t too large and keep their identities a secret.) After the meal is over, have everyone go to their new classrooms for a time to talk. Each person should then be given time to talk about what they brought. Some examples of suitable objects are as follows: a baby picture, present family picture, hobby items, favorite book, favorite snack food, favorite crayon color, job or school related item. Encourage everyone to ask each other questions about the objects and why they were chosen.

Excerpt from *101 Ideas That Work For Encouraging Sunday School Teachers and Other Church Leaders* condensed for *The Best of the Ideabook*, David C. Cook Church Ministries. Used by permission.

## Sensational Learning

### Using the Senses in Teaching Stories told to Marlene LeFever

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled [this we proclaim concerning the] Word of life (1 John 1:1).*

#### Do

As visiting pastor, I was to give the children’s sermon. I invited the children forward to take a piece of candy, the first step in my sermon illustration. Not one child came. I begged three times. No one! Finally a middle-aged man stood up and said, “Well, I’ll have some candy.” He walked forward, ate a piece, announced it was good and handed out the rest to the congregation. Dumbfounded, I just launched into the adult sermon. The man shook my hand at the end of the service and said, “That was the best children’s sermon I’ve ever heard.” I was shocked. I hadn’t preached the children’s sermon. “What exactly about it did you like?” I asked. “Well,” he said, “I got to do it.” —County Antrim, Northern Ireland

#### Hear

Jamie, a shy child who is just discovering Jesus, comes up to adult groups after Sunday school and church and just stands there listening to people talk. I know why. She is listening to discover what makes Christians different. —Sweetwater, Texas.

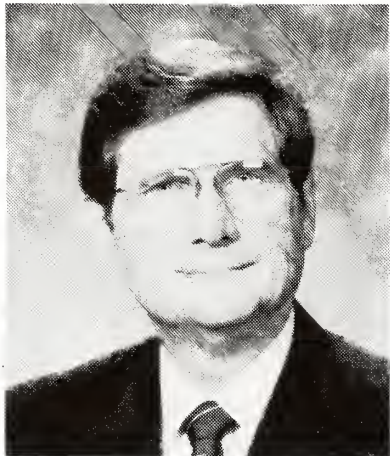
#### See

My four year old was learning about the Son of God. In Sunday school she colored Jesus yellow from head to toe. Her teacher asked her to explain. “Well,” she said, “everyone knows the sun is yellow.” —Ayden, North Carolina

From the Christian education affirmation newsletter, *Teacher Touch*, published by David C. Cook Church Ministries. Used by permission.



## Night of Evangelism



Dr. Larry Lewis

North Carolina.

On Tuesday evening at 7:30 in College Hall, Dr. Larry Lewis, second to the staff of Mission America and National Facilitator for *Celebrate Jesus 2000*, will speak during our Night of Evangelism.

*Mission America* is a group of over 100 denominational and para ministry groups committed to support and participate in the vision of *Celebrate Jesus 2000*, with the goal "to pray for and share Christ with every person in America by year-end 2000 AD."

Please be reminded that we, as a domination, have declared that we will participate.

### Larry L. Lewis — Biographical Sketch

Larry L. Lewis retired as president of the Home Mission Board in December, 1996, and has been seconded to the staff of Mission America to serve as National Facilitator for *Celebrate Jesus 2000*.

As the new millennium approaches, we find Original Free Will Baptists uniquely positioned for one of the most important efforts in the history of our church. We can play a key role in this most massive, intensive, and inclusive evangelistic outreach.

To learn how your church can participate in this endeavor for reaching your community for Christ and how to establish Lighthouses, you will need to make sure that your people *attend the 1999 Conventniion on September 14-16 at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive,*

## You Can Make AN IMPACT!

From time to time our people, churches or church organizations are looking avenues to IMPACT the work of the Kingdom. The way you can help is by providing the necessary funds to meet our Headquarters needs. The following list is made available for your consideration.

1. Carpet Cleaning
2. Lighting and Wiring for New Sign
3. Framing for Heritage Hall Items
4. New Drapes for Reception Area
5. New Drapes for Convention Office
6. Door Mats
7. Landscaping for New Sign
8. Landscaping at Headquarters Entrance
9. Bookcases for Headquarters Library
10. Computer Desk
11. Cabinets and Counters for Reception/ Secretary Area
12. Paint and Wallpaper Restrooms
13. Paint inside of Headquarters
14. Office Door Signs.

To discover how you can help meet the NEEDS of our Headquarters, contact the General Administrator at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, or call (252) 746-4963.

## New Missionary Speaks For Worship

The Rev. Wayne Watson, Director/Pastor of our newest mission/church located in Mooresville, North Carolina, spoke at our Headquarters Worship on Wednesday, March 7, 1999. Brother Watson assumed his new duties on May 2. We were elated as he shared his call and anticipation of the new endeavor for the Kingdom. At the close of the service, the Headquarters family gathered in prayer, asked God for divine guidance as the Watsons follow the Great Commission.

(Pictures right: The Rev. Wayne Watson on left and the Rev. David C. Hansley on right.)





# 1999 Coming Events

July 5-10 Youth Frontier Conference (AFC) Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain	September 13 Cragmont Board Meeting Mount Olive College, Mount Olive	September 18 Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention Mount Zion OFWB Church Vandemere
July 12-17 General Youth II Conference Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain	September 14 Special Chapel Service Mount Olive College, Mount Olive	September 20 Eastern Conference Ministerial Examining Board Meeting Conference Office Deep Run, NC
July 12-16 Youth Camp Camp Vandemere, Vandemere	September 14-16 <b>1999 Convention of OFWB</b> College Hall, Mount Olive College Mount Olive	September 25 Central District Woman's Auxiliary Convention
July 19-24 General Youth I Conference Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain	September 14 Night of Evangelism Mount Olive College, Mount Olive	September 26-30 Community Tent Revival Cove City, NC
July 26-31 Young People's Bible Conference Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain	September 15 Sunday School Banquet and Mission Rally Mount Olive College, Mount Olive	
July 26-30 Youth Camp Camp Vandemere, Vandemere		

*August Is...*

## Heritage Month

### Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

#### PURPOSE:

1. To effectively know where we are going, we must understand from whence we have come.
2. To provide the opportunity for our people to reflect upon the importance of continuing ministry.
3. To show the *connection* between the congregation and the Convention.
4. To remind us all of our privilege and obligation to support the Church that we may continue our heritage.
5. To rekindle/revitalize our commitment of this ministry to the Church.
6. To participate financially in the maintenance of this ministry.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Congregation Sunday	August 1
Covenant Sunday	August 8
Mission/Ministry Sunday	August 15
Heritage Sunday	August 22
Celebrate Jesus 2000 Sunday	August 29

(Each church will be receiving a packet of materials with information and ideas for participating in the celebration of HERITAGE MONTH.)

August 2-7 August Woman's Auxiliary Conf. Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain
August 7 Singing By The River All Day Gospel Sing Camp Vandemere, Vandemere
August 21-24 Mexico Short-Term Team
August 22 — <b>Heritage Sunday</b>
August 29 Scholarship Day, Mount Olive College Mount Olive
September 3-6 Labor Day Weekend Headquarters Closed
September 7 OFWB Press Foundation Membership Meeting
September 11 Choir Fest '99 Mount Olive College, Mount Olive

# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Thomas à Kempis. *The Imitation of Christ in The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics*. Introduction by Timothy P. Weber. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

## Introduction

*The Imitation of Christ* (1471) is divided into four parts. The Second Book is the book of "general admonitions on the devotional life, centered on the person of Christ" (439). The second Book also emphasizes the value of suffering in the development of the Christian Life. Thomas à Kempis stresses that the Kingdom of God is "within" and a Christian must seek Christ and give the self "to things inward, and thou shalt see the kingdom of

God come within thee" (466).

## Inward Things

What are the things inward which might draw us closer to the Kingdom of God? Thomas à Kempis suggests these: (1) "Put thy whole trust in God" (466). (2) "If thou rejectest outward comfort thou wilt be able to contemplate heavenly things and frequently to be joyful inwardly" (467). (3) "Make no great account who is for thee or against thee, but mind only the present duty and take care that God be with thee in whatsoever thou doest" (467). (4) "First keep thyself in peace" (468). (5) "A pure heart seeth the very depths of heaven and hell" (469). (6) "Reckon as altogether vain whatsoever consolation comes to thee from a creature" (470). (7) "If thou considerest well what thou are inwardly, thou wilt not care what men will say to thee" (470). (8) "The love of created things is deceiving and unstable, but the love of Jesus is faithful and lasting" (471). (9) "Where art thou when thou art not present to thyself?" (469).

## Jesus as the Source of Help

Thomas à Kempis experienced the centrality of Jesus in his life. Only Jesus could be trusted, not man. Comfort came through Jesus, not through the world and its creatures. No profit existed separate from Jesus. To Jesus alone should be the praise and love, for only as Jesus lives in us do we give to God the glory. "Trust not nor lean upon a reed shaken with the wind, because *all flesh is grass, and the goodness thereof falleth as the flower of the field* (471), writes Thomas. "If thou seekest Jesus in all things thou shalt verily find Jesus," (471) he tells us. To experience Jesus we must be humble, peaceable, "godly and quiet" (471).

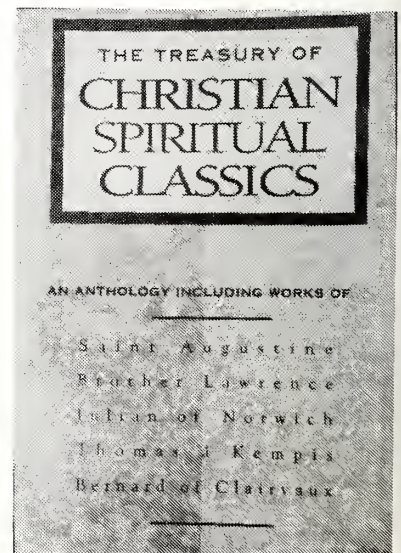
## Avoid Entanglements with the World

Instead of seeking prominence and power in the world, Thomas suggests that the soul must seek "the lowest room" (474) where contemplation must be upon God, not the world's vanity. "For spiritual comforts exceed all the delights of the world, and all the pleasures of the flesh" (474).

Entanglements with the world destroy the spirit and peace of the soul. Instead of the entanglements of comfort, physical delights, social pride, sloth, arrogance, and self-glory, we must seek the "grace of God" (472), "hard exercises" and "severe labours for Christ" (473). We must seek a "denial of self" (473) and "the shame" (475) of the Cross.

## Conclusion: True Life

Thomas à Kempis reminds us of two things: (1) "And the more a man dieth to himself, the more he beginneth to live towards God" (478); (2) "He who loveth Jesus, and is inwardly true and free from inordinate affections, is able to turn himself readily unto God, and to rise above him in spirit, and to enjoy fruitful peace" (467).

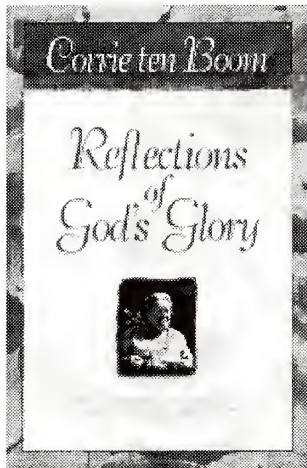


*The Imitation of Christ in The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON

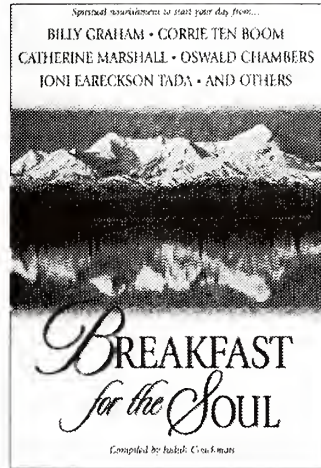


# Devotional & Inspiration

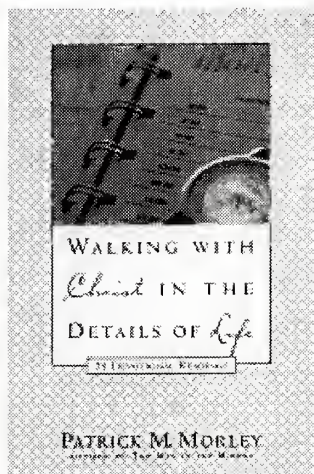
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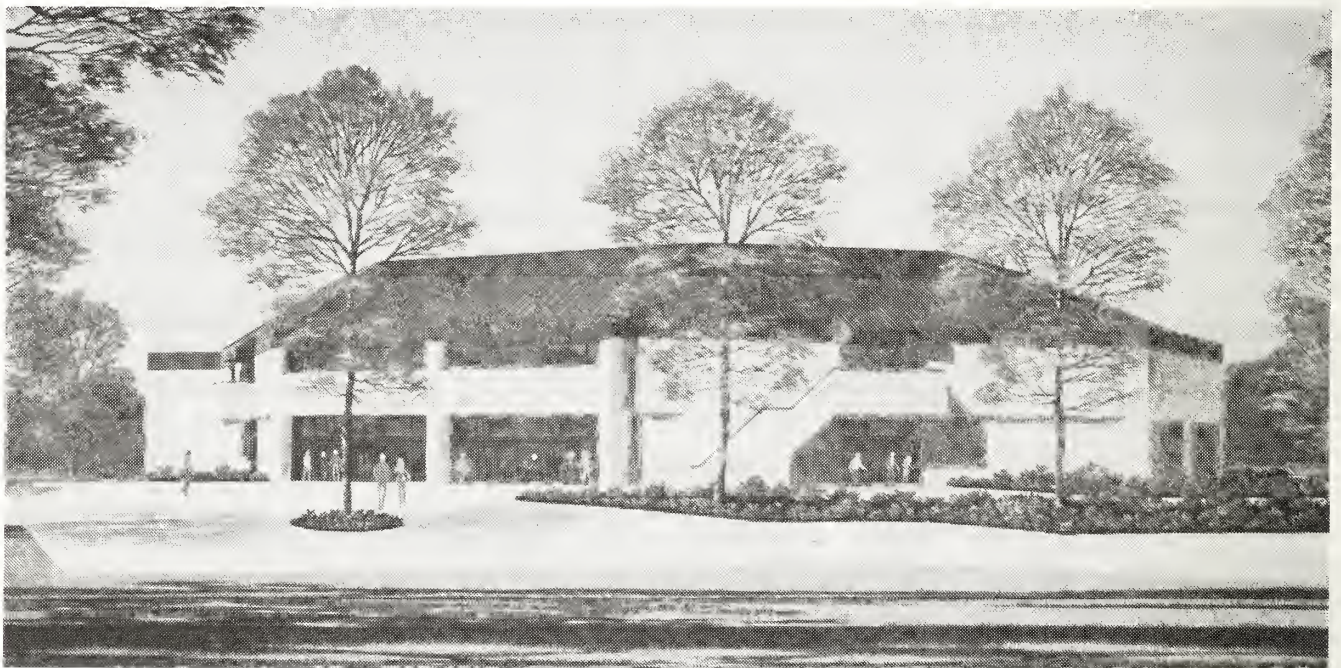
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# 1999 CONVENTION



*College Hall  
Mount Olive College  
Mount Olive, North Carolina*

*September 14-16*

*Theme: "A Call To The Harvest"*

*Tuesday, September 14 — Night of Evangelism*



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JULY 1999



*Featuring:*

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*A Brief  
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*Israel's  
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*A View  
from the  
Choir*  
.....

*AFC  
Christian  
Writing*





*C. H. Overman*

## CUP HOLDERS: AND OTHER SIGNS OF AFFLUENCY

When it comes to modern conveniences, I thought I had seen it all until recently. What I saw in the lawn and garden section of one of our largest retail stores was a rather humongous lawn and garden tractor (more commonly a riding lawnmower) with a nice canopy to shade the rider and, wonder of wonders, a cup holder on the left fender. I venture that soon, like the large farm tractors, these lawn and garden tractors will have a closed cab with stereo radio and air conditioning. Talk about an affluent society! Perhaps we have seen nothing yet. We have come a long way since the days when we swept the yards with a broom, carefully creating a design in the dirt and sand as we cleared the yards of all the leaves and trash. Any blade of grass or weed that reared its chlorophyll stems toward the sky was quickly removed with the blade of a hoe. Now we simply "have it made." We can mow our lawn and ride in the shade while drinking our favorite soda.

Cup holders are everywhere — in vans, cars, boats, and most all other means of modern travel. They seem to be a status symbol in this impatient, rushed society. They compliment the fast-food business. We probably could not function without them. Just pull into one of these businesses in early morning and you will automatically join the rush of job commuters who drive out on the highway, in a mad rush to get to work on time, with their coffee or soda in their drink holders and a ham biscuit in one hand. If your vehicle is not equipped with a cup holder, you can purchase one. They come in all sizes, designs, etc.

It may never happen, but with all these modern-day comforts and conveniences, when so many folks live under the assumption that everything must be to their pleasure and convenience, that we are on the verge of a revolution in the structure and design of church pews. We already have book racks, pencil and envelope holders, and communion cup holders. Why not install regular cup holders? Then we can sip between the verses of each hymn and also when the minister glances at his sermon notes. We can then eliminate the Sunday school classroom coffee hour which has become the trend with classes becoming support groups whether the Word is taught or not.

As suggested in the title of this editorial, there are many other evidences of affluency in this era. In my early childhood years, I recall there was only one telephone in our immediate community. It was located in the country store that was operated by my Daddy. Anyone needing to call the doctor, or to make any other

important call, would come to the store to use our phone. How things have changed. We now have beepers, cell phones, cordless phones, e-mail, faxes, on-line, the internet, etc. And speaking of cup holders in our vehicles, we have the cell phone that we riskedly use as we zoom along on the interstate, with one hand on the wheel and the other clutching this modern-means of communication. Hand-held cell phones are taken into school classrooms and teachers are frequently interrupted as these phones ring with a message from a friend to talk about something that is of little importance. Lap-top computers now travel with the entrepreneurs of the modern business world. How can anyone really be that busy and that important? Are there not times when we need to be free — to allow our over-loaded minds to simply take a break from our hectic lives that weight us down?

Many churches have updated and become modernized in this information age. Hymn books are being replaced with huge video screens on which the words of the hymns are projected; high quality sound systems now amplify voices and music to the farthest corner of the sanctuary with equal volume. Bulletins are products of the computer. Gone are the old mimeograph machines with their messy ink that caused many a good preacher to seek forgiveness because of his impatience and fussy response to these old machines.

What's next? Where do we go from here? Hardly can we keep pace with changing technology. The so-called information highway has now become a super highway. How much knowledge can we contain, or retain? In our desire to keep abreast of the changing technology, we may lose ourselves in the rush to knowledge. Our western civilization has spoiled us. We "have it made," or at least that is what we think. We like it! I'm glad that we have so many things at our finger tips, even the cup holders, and our remote controls, and our automatic entrance keys, and our riding lawn mowers. The truth is, however, we can live without these things. Most of the people of the world have no knowledge of their existence. These gadgets of our modern era do not really satisfy the hunger of the human heart. Only God can do that, and our first commitment is to Him. We should praise Him for His goodness and grace. If these evidences of our affluent society are used for His glory and for the advancement of His Kingdom, then to Him be all glory — even for the cup holders.



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**NEXT MONTH**

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 Convention Promotion  
 Month

July is  
 Christian Education  
 Month

## Features

# A Brief Overview of Our Heritage

*Original Free Will Baptists Coming Together*  
by Dr. Michael Pelt

*August of 1999 has been designated by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists as Heritage Month and August 22 as Heritage Sunday. This will be a great opportunity for the churches of our denomination to celebrate all that earlier generations of our faith and order have passed on to us.*

We all share in that heritage which comes from the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, through which the church was brought into being and is sustained by the one Spirit that is promised to all who believe and are baptized into Christ. In that sense we all belong to the body of Christ if we truly acknowledge Him as Lord of our lives and of the church. We rejoice in this aspect of our heritage every time we turn our hearts to God in praise.

But we also belong to a denomination that has its roots in the history of the English Reformation. Our Puritan spiritual forebears, having become Baptists while in exile in Holland, returned to their native England and established the first Baptist church in that country. They soon became known as General Baptists because of their belief in the general atonement as opposed to the doctrine that Christ died only for the elect. These English General Baptists also embraced other beliefs which they passed on to a later generation and which were embodied in a document known as the Confession of 1660, which became the standard confession of the religious body.

In the late 1600s and early 1700s, some of these General Baptists came to the American colonies, some to New England, and others to Virginia and the Carolinas. Of greatest interest to us are those who settled in the Albemarle region of North Carolina. At first the devout among them met for worship in their homes and welcomed others to join them. The earliest record of a church organization was in Chowan County, presided over by the Rev. Paul Palmer, followed by another in Pasquotank in 1729. Paul Palmer lived in Perquimans County, but as an itinerant preacher he traveled and preached as far north as New England and as far south as Charleston, SC.

*...in 1842 a meeting of delegates and ministers of churches in both conferences was held at Louison Swamp Church in Lenior County to reorganize the Original Free Will Baptist General Conference.*

Other men were soon ordained to minister to several congregations that were gathered by Palmer and his co-workers, William Surginer and Josiah Hart. Hundreds were baptized by these men and the young preachers sent out by them to serve as pastors.

In the 1750s representatives of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, with the Calvinist doctrinal system, interrupted the progress of these General Baptists churches and persuaded some of them to disband and submit to reorganization as Particular (Calvinist) Baptist churches. Other churches soon followed suit as their ministers were persuaded to embrace Calvinist doctrines, leaving a large number of people without pastors and a few ministers who refused to allow their churches to be disbanded and reorganized on Particular Baptist principles. Among these were men like Joseph Parker, William Parker, William Fulsher, and John Winfield. These men and their congregations "kept the faith" and passed on their heritage, including the Confession of 1660, to the next generation.

We have no written records to show when or under what circumstances these churches formed a conference organization. Our earliest existing document that makes reference to a conference is what we call the 1812 Articles of Faith. This document, along with the Confession of 1660, is an important part of our heritage, and the fact that the conference commissioned two of its leading ministers, James Roach and Jesse Heath, to prepare this document and subsequently adopted it in order to set forth the faith and order of this conference, its ministers, and its member churches is also of great significance.

When the conference met for its annual session in 1830 at Grimsley Church in Greene County, Elder Jessie Heath offered a motion that the conference be divided for the convenience of those attending into the eastern division to be called Shiloh and a western division to be called Bethel. At the next session, a group of churches in South Carolina were dismissed to form their own



conference. During the following decade both the Shiloh and Bethel conferences were disrupted by the influence of Campbellite views, directed against the use of denominational names and the use of creeds and articles of faith on the grounds that the Scriptures alone could unite the churches of Christ and restore Christianity to its primitive form. But in 1842 a meeting of delegates and ministers of churches in both conferences was held at Louson Swamp Church in Lenior County to reorganize the Original Free Will Baptist General Conference. Churches of this conference continued to prosper, to evangelize, and to pass on the heritage which they had received from earlier generations.

As the number of churches increased throughout a wide area of eastern and central North Carolina, new conferences were formed. The Cape Fear Conference was organized in 1855 with eight churches and seven ministers. Between 1853 and 1886 The General Conference experienced phenomenal growth with an enrollment of 118 member churches in 1886, over an area extending eastward as far as Tyrrell County and westward as far as Wake and Chatham counties. Consequently, the conference in session that year at Black Jack Church in Pitt County agreed to form the Western and Eastern divisions with the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad as the dividing line. Both conferences continued to grow during the next decade with the result that the Eastern division in 1895 again decided to form two conferences, the Central and the Eastern conferences, both of which met in their first session the following year.

Such growth in the number of churches and ministers that had now been separated into four conferences seemed to call for an organization that would bring greater unity to Original Free Will

Baptists in this state. After the failure of a Union Conference to achieve that goal, in 1912, leaders of the Union Conference proposed to organize a state convention in hopes of bringing in other associations of Free Will Baptists located in the southern and western areas of North Carolina.

Representatives of the Eastern, Central, Western, and Cape Fear conferences met in Bailey, North Carolina in 1913 to adopt a constitution and bylaws of the new organization and to consider other items of business. One of these was the adoption of an earlier proposal in the Western Conference to establish a Free Will Baptist Orphanage. Steps were taken at this first session to amend the charter of the Free Will Baptist Publishing Company which had been established at Ayden to allow for a wider ownership of this enterprise. There were also a resolution calling on all the churches to make gifts to their conferences designated for Ayden Seminary which was opened in 1898.

The formation of the state convention was a huge step forward for Original Free Will Baptists. Not only did it provide a vehicle to foster unity among the churches and conferences as new conferences were organized, like the Piedmont and the Albemarle, and others like the Pee Dee Association, organized in 1869, were brought into fellowship, but it also became the instrument for launching and encouraging support for the mission and ministries of the denomination. All of the present ministries sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists except the Press at Ayden were begun since the Convention was organized in 1913. One cannot overestimate the roll of the

Convention in giving direction and challenge to churches, conferences, and other organizations, as well as individuals, in carrying out the mission of the church to bear witness to the gospel and to be involved in service to others in the name of Christ. The Convention deserves our full support as it endeavors to unite our conferences and churches in this great effort.

As we approach the beginning of the new century and a new millennium, the Convention will continue to need capable and wise leadership if our denomination is to avoid the pitfalls of the past and if together we are to attempt greater things for the kingdom of God in the new century, while enjoying the unity and harmony that should characterize the church of Jesus Christ. The Convention will also need the full participation of the ministers and churches that make up this organization by virtue of their membership in the various conferences. Because the Convention is a voluntary organization that does not exercise authority over its members conferences and churches, it is dependent upon the good will and support of all its constituencies. For almost an entire century it has proven its value in giving unity to the denomination, in helping to preserve and pass on our heritage, and in providing a channel of mission and ministry to the world at large.

Readers who wish to learn more about our denominational heritage should obtain a copy of *A History of Original Free Will Baptists* by Dr. Michael Pelt. Copies are available in Free Will Baptist bookstores, at Mount Olive College bookstores, and at Cragmont bookstore.

# Israel's Perseverance In Exile

*Prophets of the Exile*

*(Part Two)*

by Ed Gonzalez

It was the prophet Isaiah who first prophesied Israel's captivity and exile to Babylon. The Prophet Jeremiah, however, was the most important prophet of the exile. He also spoke of the deportation and actually lived to see much of what he said fulfilled. Jeremiah was a man of various moods as equally a great example of what a prophet is. He was the most spiritually-minded of any of God's prophets. He was tender of soul in his sensibility and often complained about his being born in a world so disjointed for such a soul. To understand this statement one need only to read Jeremiah's Book of Lamentations. Before God called Jeremiah into his service, He had thoroughly searched the heart and the inborn sensibility that was original and unparalleled in the prophet — even before he was born. Jeremiah's preaching and the production of his book is second only to the Psalms as perhaps the most spiritual book in the Old Testament. With authority he thundered God's Word. Historically speaking, Jeremiah could see the agonizing dilemma before him and face it with the strongest courage. For forty years he would nobly preach the Kingdom of God at no cheap price; for he was cast into prison again and again. Not Peter or the "sons of thunder" could accuse Jeremiah of having misled them of the coming Kingdom of the Messiah. His words were pure spiritually.

Zedekiah, Judah's last king, was on the throne as a puppet king appointed by the mighty monarch of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. Zedekiah was an impudent king, though he had been a good one in

*Before God called Jeremiah into his service, He had thoroughly searched the heart and the inborn sensibility that was original and unparalleled in the prophet — even before he was born.*

the past, who liked to flex his muscles. He decided to rebel against Babylon, incurring the wrath of Nebuchadnezzar who was determined to settle the Jewish problem once and for all. Jeremiah did not move to block the incoming onslaught of the Chaldean king, but rather pronounced judgment upon the envoys sent by other vassal states who were meeting with Zedekiah.

*"Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say unto your masters; I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant;..." (Jeremiah 27:4-6).*

There is no doubt, and the Scriptures bear witness, that God used the Chaldean monarch to punish the Jews for their obnoxious sins. God thundered through Jeremiah, "They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbor's wife. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD:..." (Jeremiah 5:8-9). The Lord

told Jeremiah to go up and down the streets of Jerusalem and take a good look, to search thoroughly, through nook and cranny of her squares, and find at least one person who was honest and a seeker of truth. The prophet was disappointed. He could find no one whose resume would qualify him or her.

When Nebuchadnezzar first laid siege of Jerusalem, only the elite were taken away. A young priest by the name of Ezekiel was among the young men who were exiled (2 Kings 24:13-16). The royal house of Jehoiachin was deported to Babylon along with court officials and a large troop of Judah's fighting men. Nebuchadnezzar did not destroy the city or the temple. He, in essence, left the Jewish state intact and still in existence.

Among the first group to be exiled was a lad of no more than seventeen years old. He was a handsome young man without physical defect. In all his ways he had an aptitude for learning. He was well informed and quick to understand. Daniel, being a prince and nobleman, was chosen to be a part of Nebuchadnezzar's court and palace. Along with the many other young Jews, he was to be schooled in the language and literature of the Babylonians. In time, he would have a long and successful career in the service of God in a foreign nation and never return to his own country.

The Book of Daniel does not give us a history of the Jewish people during the exile. It does not include Daniel's biography or his lineage or his age. Daniel wrote the book to



comfort and assure the people of God that though they were in exile because of their sins, God would not forget His promises made to the forefathers. Indeed, the deporting of God's people to the land of the Chaldees would begin the times of the Gentiles. From this day on until the twentieth century, Jerusalem would be trodden down by the Gentiles, "...until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

The deportation of Israel has so many dimensions and implications that even the minor Prophet Habakkuk was pressed into duty as a watchman over his people, to no avail.

In Babylon the Jews sat by the river Tigris and Euphrates and wept. They were truly in the Diaspora!

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## DE LA VILLE INTER-CONTINENTAL, ROMA Room 425

We lived in Room 425 a month,  
our window overlooking Via Sistina,  
ancient as Rome itself but more rich  
with cobblestones, obelisk, neoclassical facades  
and living love  
blended within walking distance  
of the room where Keats ceased to be.

The Spanish steps wound their two-sided way  
down to a fountain  
up to a church:  
baptism a part of each  
like aged rivers  
pouring the substance of life and death  
upon the earth:  
sacred and secular as one  
as history—  
the past, present, and future  
a triad of time  
each with its own face and fortune,  
each a part of the winding whole  
that melts time  
into puddles of wonder,  
the reflection of all water  
but an imprint of soul  
locked into one  
as Virgin Mary reigns  
while Pope John Paul II rules.

Room 425 became *home*  
in a universe of families,  
De La Ville our newfound center  
for the place that takes you in  
as home,  
the soul of a city  
its piazzas, love, and the Virgin Mary  
interlocking neoclassical grace  
with hidden vistas made manifest—  
windows but an opening to soul.  
—Pepper Worthington

## *A View from the Choir*

by Elaine Swinson

The entrance of our choir signals the congregation to hurriedly whisper their final words as our morning service begins. From our lofty heights the members of the choir become as feathered birds of the sky, able to enjoy all the brightly colored patches of Sunday dresses and brilliant ties against the softness of light-colored shirts.

As announcements of coming events are highlighted, I delight in the spontaneous displays of love, which are caught by the camera of my eyes for future reflection. A grandmother gently plants a kiss on the rosy cheek of a grandchild

## *A View from the Choir, cont....*

and is promptly rewarded by a choking hug in return. Love spills over from the heart of a new mother whose newborn baby wraps its tiny hand around her finger.

My attention is brought to the sound of our pastor's voice as he names those who have special need of our prayers. In observing his profile, I am suddenly made aware of his thinning hair and tired shoulders realizing that the burdens of his flock are taking an almost invisible toll on his life. Although I am silent, my heart begs God to take care of him, so that he can take care of us.

The vibrant sounds of the piano command us to stand at attention as we prepare to sing an old hymn filled with a message all its own. As my eyes once again focus on the sea of people rising to join us in harmony of song, tears threaten to spill as I see a son gently help his aged mother stand to her feet and find her place in the song book.

Widows, of all ages, still find themselves reaching to touch the arm of their missing husbands, only to feel the coolness of an empty place in the pew. Completely oblivious to the trails and tribulations which they may encounter in the future, a young couple holds hands, dreaming of their upcoming wedding plans.

We are standing now for the blessing on our tithes and gifts, given to the Lord for His work among men. As I bow my head to pray, I catch the reflection of light on an oxygen bottle bravely borne to church each Sunday by a sweet lady who is now alone to complete her life's journey. A soft smile twinkles among the tiny wrinkles which have crept quietly into her face as the years have passed.

The young children, who have endured just as much stillness as they possibly can, get their signal that it's time for their part of the service. Rushing forward to get the best seat, they crowd around the preacher, nearly removing him from his perch on the edge of the altar. Their angelic expressions would *almost* convince anyone that there was no possibility of mischief lurking in their active little minds. A glance around the sanctuary gives me a feeling of contentment as I see the congregation leaning forward to catch the responses of the children as they give their opinions to the preacher for all to hear. Because children always have a habit of telling the complete truth at the wrong time, their parents pray earnestly that there are no hidden secrets which may suddenly be announced to the congregation to send waves of crimson across the faces.

The choir special is next on the agenda. Taking a deep breath and praying that I will remember when the ladies are *not* supposed to sing in order for the men to shine, I know that God is in our service today because I can feel the warmth of His arms around me. *My view from the choir* has taken me on a silent trip through the lives of the kind, wonderful folks who make up my church family and back home again to enjoy their fellowship and God's blessings in our lives.

## *Youth Convention* *AFC Christian Writing Essay*

### **"Breaking Ground"**

Non-Fiction

by Emily Grace Carlton

AFC, First Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson

On February 14, at the First Free Will Baptist's new landsite, we had our groundbreaking service. We were lead into our call to worship by Gregg Owen and the FFWB Choir as they sang "There's Never Been A Mountain." We were glad to hear the Words of Welcome and Purpose by John Boykin. The Rev. Wayne King read Scripture from 1 Chronicles 29:10-16. It says "Wherefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. O Lord our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own."

The Rev. King then spoke of our vision of spreading the word to *all* people, because "where there is a lack of vision, people perish." Our responsive reading helped us to remember that we were "breaking ground" and building our new church to the glory of God and to remember our present and past blessings that God has given unto us. By breaking ground for our new church, we will worship, praise, fellowship and go forth to serve God.

By moving to the New Hope community, we will be able to have a larger church. We want to reach more people, and to better serve the community through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we turned the first shovels of dirt, Mr. John Boykin (Chairman of the Building Steering Committee) spoke, "in the glory of our God, let us breakground." Many important people helped in the groundbreaking, Mayor Bruce Rose, R.N. Rouse Construction, Creative Architecture, David West - Chairman Wilson County



# Youth Convention — AFC Christian Writing Essay

*"Breaking Ground", cont....*

Board of Commissioners, the Rev. David Hansley – General Administrator of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention, Steve Burnette – Chairman of the Board of Deacons, John Boykin – Building Committee Chairman, and the Rev. Wayne King – Pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church. They then took their shovels and dug into the ground. The church members were furnished with metal spoons so they could participate in the groundbreaking ceremony also.

The groundbreaking service closed with the singing of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." The pastor closed by saying "Now with the Lord's help and by his grace, let us build. And all God's people said Amen! Praise the Lord!"

All of these things will help us to be faithful in our vision of our building campaign motto: "New Hope for a New Day." This was truly "A New Day" in the history of our church.



## To Every Wall

by Tabatha Kennedy  
AFC, Sandy Plain

To every wall  
There is a door.  
To every door  
There is a key.

But sometimes the other side  
Is not what you thought it was.  
Be thankful there is another door.

For every person  
There is a prayer.  
For every prayer  
There is an answer.

But sometimes the answer  
Is not what you thought it was.  
Be thankful there are answers to them.

God knows you  
And your needs.  
He helps you  
Get through those times  
That seem so hard and awful.  
God hears and answers your prayers,  
Even if it takes a while to see them.



## Surviving A Trial

Non-Fiction

by Crystal Guy

AFC, Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church

April Fools' Day of 1997 will be a day I will always remember. My mom got a call at her work that my Grandpa was sick. She left work and went to his house. When she got there, he was in extreme pain on his right side. He was real weak and pale. Mom called the Rescue Squad and he was taken to the emergency room at Rex Hospital in Raleigh. I learned that trials in a family can make us closer to God and that we have to always have faith that God will carry us through them.

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him"  
(James 5:15).

Grandpa was kept in the hospital undergoing different tests for three days because they couldn't find out what was wrong with him. He was gradually getting worse and they were giving him something for pain every day. On the fourth day, we were told it was his gall bladder. He needed surgery that day. Knowing that he would be going "under the knife," we put our faith in God and the doctors. Following the surgery, the doctors came back and told us that the stones in his gall bladder had caused it to rupture and that gangrene had set in. The doctors told our family that he was lucky because if he had waited any longer for surgery, the gangrene would have spread over his body.

On the fifth day, he was put in intensive care and that is when he started hallucinating due to the medicine and poison he was fighting. My Grandpa didn't know who I was or what was going on. It made me really sad to see him in that condition. Jesus said,

"...whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you" (John 16:23).

I went to a little chapel in the hospital and prayed at the altar asking God to help my Grandpa get better. After that day, he started to get a little better each day.

It was no joke on that April Fools' Day when my Grandpa had to go to the hospital. The physical pain he suffered as well as the worry we all had for him were all part of the trials we had to endure. Like Job in the Old Testament, we cried out to God for help and mercy; and thankfully, my Grandpa is home and doing very well now.

# CAMP VANDEMERE

OUR FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTER

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

Camping season is upon us and has gotten off to a good start. Our first group came on Memorial Day weekend. It was Youth Mission's Retreat, directed by the Rev. Ray Conner and his wife Ginny, pastor of Holly Springs Church, Newport. There was time for fun and recreation and time for worship. There were several rededications and two first-time decisions for the Lord. We would like to thank those who came from the church to help with the counseling, take care of the cooking, and serve in any other way as needed.

This past June 4-5, the State Layman's League met at the camp for their annual Spiritual Life Retreat. On Friday some of the men came early and cooked a pig so those who came for supper could enjoy a pig-picking. After we had some time of fellowship, we assembled in the lobby of the dorm and the president led us in our devotions. Afterwards, some of the men sat around singing, praying, and fellowshiping until about 3 AM, while others tried their hand at fishing. Some even tried to sleep.

On Saturday we had three outstanding messages. The first one was, "The Biblical View of Sin" by the Rev. Seth Allen. The second was, "The Biblical View of Salvation" by Mr. Randy Tyson. The third one was, "The Biblical View of Heaven and Hell" by the Rev. Mike Scott.

Those who attended had a wonderful time as well as being fed spiritually. Make plans to come to the State Layman's League Retreat the first weekend in June at Camp Vandemere next year.

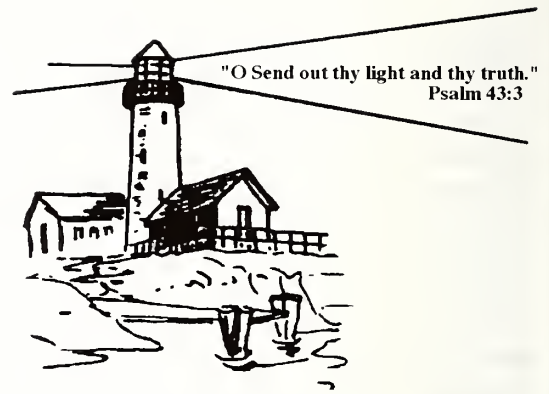
As I write to you, another week of camp is in progress. The Rev. Ralph Sumner, with the help of several others, are in a week of camp. I talked with Ralph this

morning and he was very excited. He said things were getting off to a great start.

For those who are planning to go to Camp Vandemere for a weekend, please call as early as possible for your reservations. The weekends are filling up fast and we wouldn't want you to miss out. Remember our family sleeping lodge has some space available; each room has two double beds, and a sleeper sofa. Since we have our new manager team, Mark and Sandie Piner, please call and verify the weekend or the time your group would like to come. Don't take for granted that your time is already reserved. We reserve the camp on a first come basis. We try hard to remember, but with all the changes we may overlook things that are very important. The camp phone is 252-745-3171. Please call and confirm your reservation.

We now have a mobile home on the campus that will be the living quarters for Mark and Sandie. Since this was donated to the camp, all we had to do was pay for the moving and set-up fees, as well as the usual permits. The Lord has wonderfully blessed the camp, but we still need your prayers and financial help.

Last month I wrote about our all-day gospel sing by the river that we have every year at the camp. I goofed up and put down the wrong date. The correct date is Saturday, August 14. Please note this important change and mark your calendars. As I said earlier, we do goof up and miss some things that are important. Again this year we will be using the big tent that Home Missions has. They are very gracious by letting us use the tent with no expense to Camp Vandemere. We plan to put the tent



up on Saturday, July 13, and we will need ten or twelve good men to help us. Don't think that there will be enough if you don't go, because usually everyone thinks this and we have a difficult time finding enough help. The Rev. Joe Crumpler will be there about 9 AM to show us how to put the tent up. Your help will be greatly appreciated and lunch will be served afterward.

The groups we have booked so far are: The Four In Christ, Second Edition, and Trinity. We are waiting to hear from a couple of other groups and we will let you know about them as soon as we can. We will have fish plates for lunch, along with hamburgers, hot dogs, and deserts. We possibly will have a yard sale again this year. It's going to be a great day for fun and fellowship, so bring your family and just sit back, enjoy the view, the breeze, and the good singing. There will be no admission charge (this is a free sing) but we will take a freewill offering during the singing.

Again we would like to thank all the friends of the camp for all you are doing for us. Continue to pray for the camp, put us in your budget, and if you can, have a fund-raiser for the camp. I heard just last week from a person who said, "I had never been to Camp Vandemere, and I had no idea that we had such a lovely place available to our Free Will Baptist Churches." Come and see the wonderful work that our Lord is doing at Camp Vandemere.



## *Spiritual Life Retreat* *June 4-5, 1999*

State Layman's League President, Elmer Harrell, put together a program of real enjoyment for the Camp Vandemere Retreat. This year's session has been the topic of discussion for those who attended the last one before the Millennium, as the year 2000 is only months away. With Camp Vandemere looking its best, after all the work that has been put into it by faithful Laymen in areas where their talents could be used, how can anyone not appreciate the atmosphere that touched us all. You really missed a treat if you were not there. God's presence covered the area like a giant astrodome.

The pig was ready at 6:00 PM, and the chopping began as the Laymen arrived. Harold Humbles, state secretary, went down early to help setup the weekend program and help Elmer sample the ribs. After the meal and fellowshiping, Elmer and Earl Shackleford read the parts to a script entitled "Lord, Please Show Me Your Will," which kept the Layman's interest as the evening was making way for guitar picking by our faithful artists; Jim Tripp, the Rev. Mark Hogan, Jimmie Tripp, the Rev. Jack Weathersby, Kirby McLawhorn, and the Rev. Seth Allen.

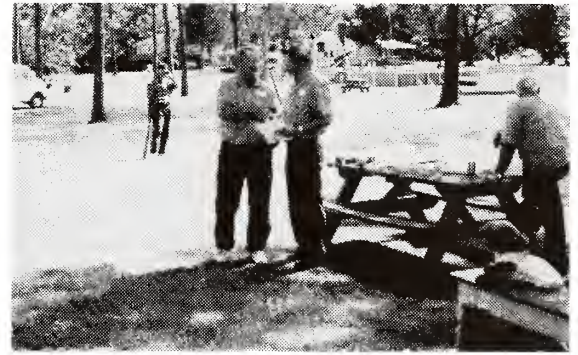
After a good night's rest, a breakfast of eggs, bacon, and grits with seconds for many, if they so desired, was served. Fellowshiping and a golf driving contest followed as many new and old pro's tried their hand. The 9:30 AM message was by the Rev. Seth Allen of Fremont Free Will Baptist Church. What a message as it filled us all on the subject, "The Biblical Views of Sin." Then there was a recess period of fellowshiping. Free drinks were donated by "Bud" Cobb. Horseshoes, and croquet added to the program.

At 10:45, we met inside to hear "The Biblical Views of Salvation" delivered by Randy Tyson, of Rose Hill Free Will Baptist Church. Randy gave us referenced, detailed Biblical Scripture on salvation and what it should mean to each of us.

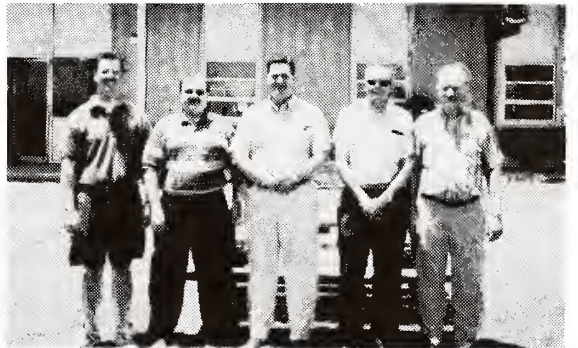
At 11:45, we enjoyed a most delicious fish dinner prepared and served by Camp Vandemere's kitchen staff which knows how to get to a Christian's heart, and that is good nourishment from the catch of the day.

The Rev. Mike Scott, pastor of Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, settled our stomachs with a touch of relaxation as he carried us on a shocking journey with his message on "The Biblical Views of Heaven and Hell." Door prizes were given out as each speaker was introduced. The inspiring testimonials brought tears to many, for we all understood that God is still in the healing business.

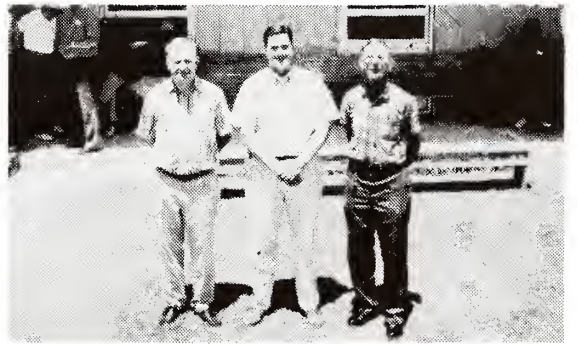
You fellows that were unable to come really missed a treat, for truly this was the best retreat that has ever been sponsored by the camp. It couldn't have been brought about without the support of the Conference, Churches, Layman, and any other donations which were desperately needed to make it successful. May God continue to bless us for taking time out of our busy schedules to enjoy what He has to offer at such a low price, but He gave His Son, who shed his blood on Calvary, to save us all.



*Christian Golf Pro's Elmer Harrell and Paul Beaman shake hands after the golf driving contest at the Spiritual Life Retreat. Who Won?*



*Ministers enjoy the retreat also. Revs. John Robert Harris, Greg Mills, Seth Allen, Owen Arthur, and Mike Scott.*



*Speakers at Spiritual Life Retreat; the Rev. Mike Scott, the Rev. Seth Allen, and layman Randy Tyson.*



*All said, "Best Retreat we ever had. Sign us up for next year."*



# LAYMAN'S LEAGUE



State President Elmer Harrell presents one of the door prizes to Paul Beaman who had the lucky number. A lot of prizes were given at this year's retreat.



Elmer Harrell and Harold Humbles present a speaker's door prize to Ernest Privette from Brethaven, Tarboro, NC, who came with Layman of Tarboro FWB Church. Ernest said he really enjoyed this year's Spiritual Life Retreat.

## Dates to Remember

- August 5 Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC, 7:00 PM.
- August 14 "Singin' By The River" all day Singspiration at Camp Vandemere, lasting from 9:00 AM until. If you want to hear the largest group of spiritual singers ever brought together at one place, then it's worth the drive.
- August 16 Eastern Layman's League Conference will be held at Camp Vandemere, 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business.
- September 6 Central Conference Layman's League, 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business. Hosted by Rose of Sharon and Williamston First FWB Churches. Being held at Williamston First, 102 Spruce Street, Williamston, NC.
- October 7 Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC.
- November 5 State Layman's League Conference, 7:00 AM meal, 7:45 PM business. Hosted by Friendship FWB Church, Farmville, NC.
- November 15 Eastern Conference Layman's League, New Haven FWB Church, Asken, NC. 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business.

CELEBRATE  
JESUS  
2000

*"As we approach the dawn of a new millennium, our country stands in great need of a genuine spiritual awakening. I strongly support the goals of Mission America, and pray that God will use it to bring a new wave of evangelism and spiritual renewal to our nation and our world."*

Dr. Billy Graham

**Mission America**



### Christian Education Class Visits Churches

The Christian Education class at Mount Olive College visited two Free Will Baptist Churches at the end of the semester. The Rev. Gary M. Bailey, pastor of Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County, and the Rev. Earl H. Glenn, pastor of Daniels Chapel Church, Wilson County, shared insights with the students regarding the ministry of the church and opportunities for young people to serve. The students toured the facilities at both churches and discussed with the pastors how these facilities were best used for Christian ministry. Mrs. Dianne B. Riley is professor of the class.



Christian Education class visits Daniels Chapel Church, Wilson County, with the Rev. and Mrs. Earl H. Glenn and Johnny Sullivan, Youth/Music Director.



Christian Education class visits Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County, with the Rev. Gary M. Bailey.

### July is Christian Education Month



Mount Olive College Student Government Association Officers for 1999–2000 are pictured (l-r): Tracy Wheeler, Vice President, member of Wilson First FWB Church in Wilson County; Jennifer Parker, President, member of Westside FWB Church in Lenoir County; Christy Atkins, Secretary; and Julie Suggs, Treasurer.



Mount Olive College Marshals for 1999–2000 are pictured front row (l-r): Alan Dupree, Christopher Tyler, Brad Piner, member of Juniper Chapel FWB Church in Craven County; JaNae Joyner, and Shannon Carter. Back row (l-r): Garrett Southerland, member of Westside FWB Church in Lenoir County; Wesley Peele, Dana Warren, Becky Kerns, member of Friendship FWB Church in Greene County; and Tracy Wheeler, member of Wilson First FWB Church in Wilson County.



## *Openings for New Students at Mount Olive College*

### *Scholarship Opportunities*

Recent high school graduates and transfer students are invited to apply for admission to the fall 1999 term at Mount Olive College. Scholarships are still available for qualified applicants, including Free Will Baptist grants (\$2,500 annually), Honors and Leaders (\$2,000 to \$4,000 annually), and other need-based financial aid. For information about eligibility contact Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions at 1-800-653-0854.

### *Residence Life*

Living on campus is a great experience! It offers students independence, as well as the chance to become involved in campus activities. Residence halls have Internet, phone and cable television hook-ups. Clubs and organizations provide students leadership and service opportunities for resume building. Worship experiences enhance spiritual development, and cultural programs give students exposure to great music, art, and literature. For more information about residence life and campus activities contact Karen Van Norman, Dean of Student Development at 1-800-653-0854.

### *Teacher Education Program shows growth!*

The teacher education program has grown steadily under the leadership of Dean Dorothy Whitley and Dr. Jake Brown. Since many of North Carolina's teachers are retiring, career opportunities are excellent in the areas of middle grades and secondary social studies and English. For more information contact Dean Whitley at 1-800-653-0854.

### *Commuters are Welcome!*

About 300 students commute to Mount Olive College in Mount Olive each year. Schedules are still available for students wanting to plan their classes around family and work. Commuters are also encouraged to become involved in campus activities.

### *Student-Faculty Interaction Promotes Involvement and Excitement about Learning*

The classroom experience at Mount Olive College is one of involvement and excitement! Rather than merely lecturing about their topics, MOC professors are facilitators of learning. Students are involved in active discussions, group assignments and research projects. Academic courses are taught by professors, not graduate assistants. And, faculty members serve as advisors to students in the selection of their courses. These interactions provide many learning opportunities for students to develop career and life skills. For more information about faculty advisement and career development, contact Linda Greenwood at 1-800-653-0854.

### *Programs for Working Adults offered in 5 locations!*

Working adults wanting to complete their bachelor's degrees can attend classes at their convenience in five locations: Mount Olive, Goldsboro, New Bern, Wilmington, and in the Triangle in Durham.

General education courses are offered at all locations during the summer and fall. These courses included history, religion, composition, mathematics, fine arts, and science, and they are offered on accelerated schedules, usually at night or on Saturdays for 5-9 weeks, depending on the course.

Bachelor's degree completion programs in Management and Organizational Development, Criminal Justice for Professionals and Church Ministries, require a specified number of hours or courses for entrance and are offered all year long in the evenings, one night per week for four hours. For more information contact the location nearest you.

Mount Olive College at Mount Olive — 1-800-653-0854

Mount Olive College at Goldsboro — 1-919-734-8585

Mount Olive College at New Bern — 1-800-868-8479

Mount Olive College at Wilmington — 1-800-300-7478

Mount Olive College at the Triangle — 1-888-258-5188

## *Mount Olive College Presents Founders' Leadership Award*

New Bern native, David Smith, received three awards at Mount Olive College's Annual Awards Ceremony held in Rodgers Chapel. He was presented with the Founders' Leadership Award, the 1999 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in History, and a College Marshal

Award.

The most distinguished of those awards, the Founders' Leadership Award, is sponsored by Dr. W. Burkette Raper, President of Mount Olive College from 1954-1995, and cont....



*Mount Olive College Presents, cont....*

his wife Rose M. Raper. The award is given each year in memory of those individuals who initiated the founding of Mount Olive College in 1951 and in honor of those individuals who have provided extraordinary leadership through dedicated service and the gift of resources for the advancement of the College. This year's award was presented in memory of the Rev. C. L. Patrick (1911–1996) and in honor of Mrs. Clara S. Patrick.

David Smith, recipient of this year's Founders' Leadership Award, is the son of Lenwood and Laural Smith. David is a senior history and business major and a member of St. Mary's FWB Church in Craven County. He received the award because he has distinguished himself as an individual of character and initiative and has demonstrated strong leadership qualities while enrolled at the College.



*Pictured (l-r) Clara S. Patrick, Dr. Burkette Raper, David Smith, and Rose Raper.*

***Mount Olive College...  
Making a Difference in the Lives  
of Today's and Tomorrow's Youth***

Jeff May, a 24-year-old junior at Mount Olive College, easily admits that MOC has changed his life for the better. After graduating from Farmville High School in 1993, Jeff started working with his Uncle in the agricultural aviation business. He soon realized he wanted more out of life, but wasn't sure exactly what until he received as he says, "A wake-up call from God."

"Growing up, I was always a rebellious kid by nature. I was often in trouble and even had run-ins with the law," Jeff recalls. At age 21, while driving under the influence of alcohol, Jeff ran into a car carrying a mother, father and little girl. Fortunately, no one was injured in the accident except for some minor injuries Jeff obtained. However, the stark reality of what could have happened changed Jeff's life forever. "That experience was my wake-up call from God, I knew I had to make changes in my life," Jeff remembered.

In the spring of 1998, Jeff enrolled at Mount Olive College. He chose the institution because of its size, Christian values, and its ability to offer students individual attention. Now a junior, Jeff says he can see a real difference in his life and so can the people around him, including his family and friends. On campus, Jeff is a member of the Trojan cross-country team, a resident advisor, and vice president of the junior class. Off campus Jeff is a member of Marlboro Free Will Baptist Church and an employee of Strickland Dail's Restaurant in Farmville, where he works during the summer.

With a projected graduated date of spring 2001, Jeff hopes to one day help youth who themselves may be traveling down one of life's troubled roads. As a criminal justice major, Jeff plans to work as a federal probation officer for the first few years of his career. He would then like to start his own private probation business for

juveniles.

"With my own personal experiences and the knowledge I have gained at Mount Olive College, I want to be able to make a positive difference in the lives of young people," Jeff concluded.



*Jeff May*

## Free Will Baptist Students Recognized for Academic Achievements

Of the 40 awards presented at Mount Olive College's Annual Awards Day Ceremony held in Rodgers Chapel, 13 were presented to students who are Free Will Baptists. Those individuals and their awards are listed as follows:

Name	Award	FWB Church	County
Marci Rollins	Freshman of the Year Award	Goldsboro First	Wayne
David Smith	Founder's Leadership Award Outstanding Student of the Year in History	St. Mary's	Craven
Becky Kerns	Kathleen B. Warren Music Award	Friendship	Craven
Neil Cox	FWB Ministerial Award	Wintergreen	Craven
Joseph Williams, II	W. Burkette Raper Ministerial Award	Rose of Sharon	Martin
Granville Byrd	Edgerton Preparatory Sr. Teacher Award Outstanding Student of the Year in Teacher Education	Lee's Chapel	Sampson
Michael Quintas	Outstanding Student of the Year in Religion	Mount Zion	Pamlico
Helen Harwood	Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities	Crab Point	Carteret
Carla McLamb	Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities	Shady Grove	Sampson
Sara Parker	Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities	Bethel	Johnston
Julie Wetherington	Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities	Gethesmine	Craven

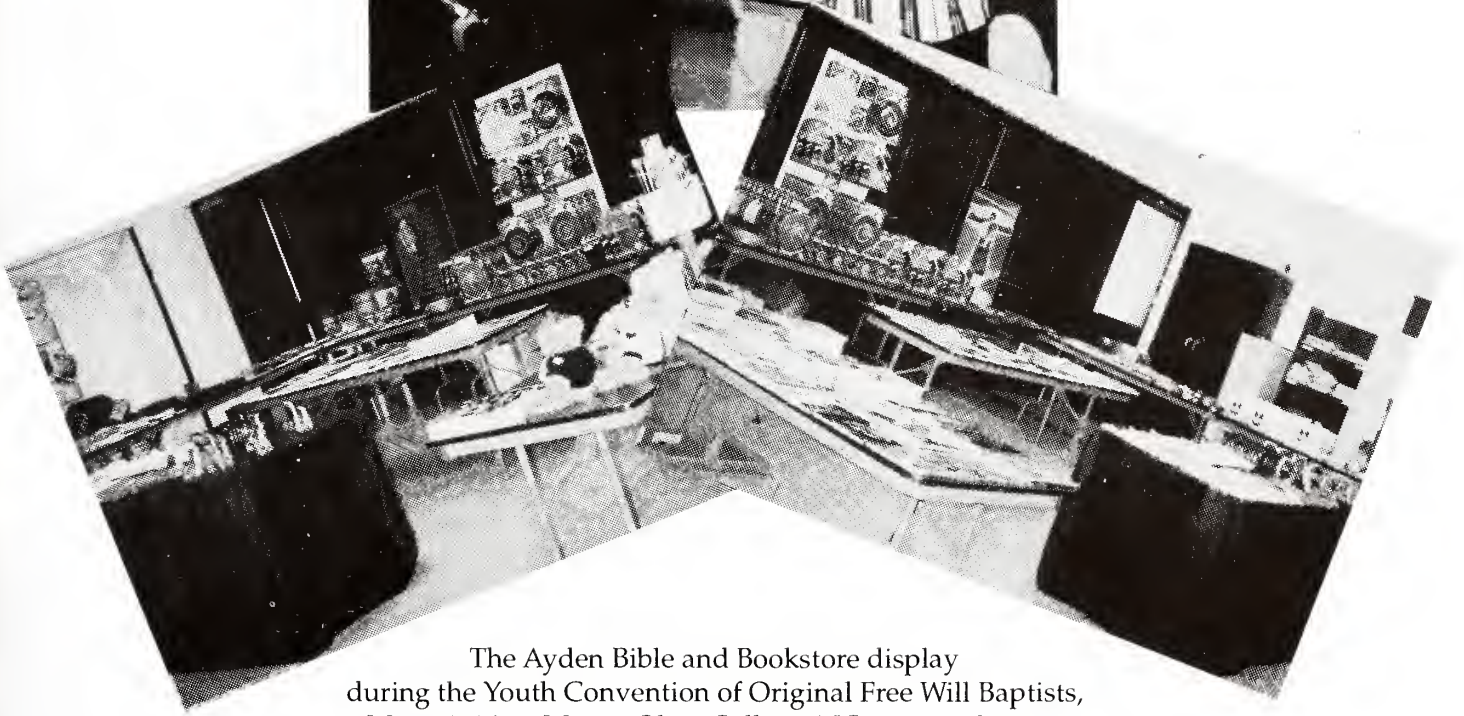
### *Dean's and President's Lists for Spring Semester 1999*

The following Free Will Baptist students were recognized for being on the Mount Olive College Dean's and President's lists for the spring semester of 1999. A student must attend college full-time, maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5, and have no grade below a C to be considered for the Dean's List. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must maintain a 4.0 GPA.

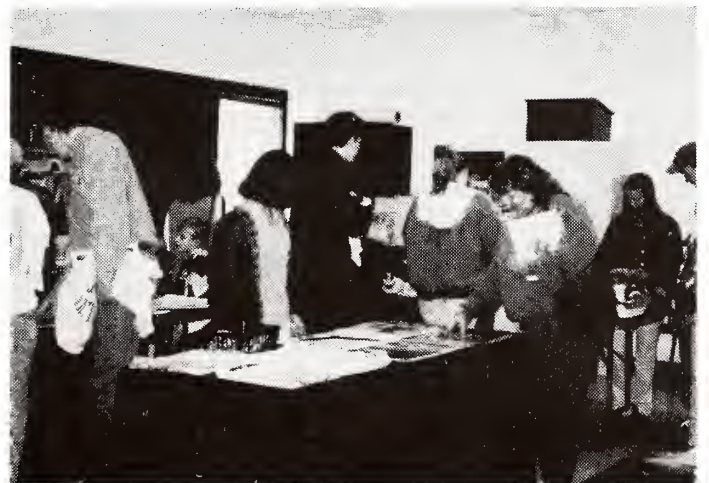
President's List			Dean's List		
NAME	CHURCH	COUNTY	NAME	CHURCH	COUNTY
Bradley Piner	Juniper Chapel	Craven	Erin Smithwick	Core Point	Beaufort
David Smith	St. Mary's	Craven	Anthony Bennett	Antioch	Craven
Audrey Davis	Deep Run	Lenoir	Jethro Oates, IV	Bethlehem	Duplin
Garrett Southerland	Westside	Lenoir	Clair Taylor	Hickory Chapel	Hertford
Joseph Williams, II	Rose of Sharon	Martin	William Barham	Pine Level	Johnston
Scarlet Harris	Antioch	Wayne	Jennifer Parker	Westside	Lenoir
Marci Rollins	Goldsboro First	Wayne	Derek Matthews	Union Grove	Wayne
Tracy Wheeler	Wilson First	Wilson	Candice Phillips	Stoney Creek	Wayne
			Melissa Inscoe	Wilson First	Wilson



# Bookstore Display



The Ayden Bible and Bookstore display during the Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, May 14-16, at Mount Olive College, NC, attracted many youth as evidenced in the pictures.





# Jesus Is God for the Bulgarians

by Janan

There are a few Gypsies living in the town, and the majority live in the two large places which are named "The Camp." The people in the camps build their houses out of all kinds of materials which are cheap enough for them. They dig limestone from the mountains which directly surround their camp. The children who come to my classes are living in "The Camp."

In the camp the adults say that Jesus is the God of the Bulgarians. Most of the Gypsies don't like the Bulgarians and therefore they don't like their God. They don't mind about Jesus and they speak in a bad way about Him. They even make a lot of mean jokes about Jesus. Because the Bulgarians are bad Jesus is bad and therefore the priest is bad as well. One of the children spoke these matters during class hours. It seems to be a strong opinion among the Gypsies.

Last Christmas, after a simple meal in the classroom, we went to the Orthodox Church, because the priest invited us. He is a friend of ours who is genuinely interested in our literature and befriended with some people in Holland who visit us every year. Last year that priest asked Willem to tell him more about the works of the Holy Spirit. We could not refuse his invitation.

After the children saw the ikons they said: "If the priest is an evil man, then he shouldn't have the pictures of Jesus and the apostles on the walls. He cannot be bad. The old women in the camp are lying to us. We will tell them that Jesus is good and that Jesus is not the God of the Bulgarians alone. We will tell them that Jesus wants to be the Lord of all people that He wanted to die for them who lie about Him too."

Soon we hope to celebrate Velik-den, which means Great Day. Easter. We pray that Velik-den or Easter shall be a Great Day for many who live around us. What a Great Day it will be if many people find everlasting life in the Crucified and Risen Lord.





## Reaching Men For Christ

by Antonio Escobar

In our churches here in Mexico, in each one of the worship services, the majority of attendants are always women. We praise the Lord for all those women whom the Lord has saved. They are a great blessing in our churches. We ask ourselves the question, "Why do men resist the message of the gospel?"

Think about this, last year brothers Baldemar Montoya and Everardo Martinez gathered with me to speak about this important matter and to make plans to evangelize men. This was the beginning of a program of last September which brought together seven men. Within the following two months, that attendance dwindled to those of us who had begun the program. Two months later only four pastors were left to pray for men. Convinced that we could not gain them, we placed them in the hands of God. We renewed the work with the men in January of this year, meeting once a week and inviting men to attend. With much praying at each meeting the attendance was better. We praise the Lord because from January to April we have gained an attendance of thirty-two men. Many of them have already accepted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. They are now preparing to be baptized in June. Let us pray that men will continue to be saved so that this department will continue to grow.



## Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Opportunities 2000

Now is the time to pray and act if you are considering joining a Short-Term Team next year. The dates are:

- April 1-16      Philippines (orientation February 28, 7 PM)
- June 17-27    Mexico (This team already has 15 members)  
(orientation April 29, 10 AM)
- July 15-25    Mexico (orientation May 20, 10 AM)
- August 12-22 Mexico (orientation June 12, 7 PM)

An orientation session is required of all who join a Short-Term Team. This session is absolutely essential. We, therefore, are including the dates of the orientation sessions with the dates of the trips. Please mark this date on your calendar as your priority for that day.

Short-Term Team ministry is for all ages:  
 Philippines    18 years old and up  
 Mexico 13 years old and up

A life changing experience awaits you! So make your plans NOW. Call 252-746-4963 for information and an application.

Join us in prayer for the 1999 teams to Mexico.

## Kosovo Refugee Update

Thank you for the tremendous response you have given to aid the refugees of Kosovo. We have received \$40,000 for this purpose. Our funds are being channeled in increments to Macedonia to help Christian Churches reach out to the refugees with food, shelter, clothing and medicine. We will continue to send it this way to better manage our aid since this will be a long-term effort; rather than sending it all at one time.

If you desire to help, make your check payable to the Board of Foreign Missions, earmarked "Kosovo Relief."

# JULY



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SUN		MON		TUE	
27	28	29	30		
<i>Remember July is Christian Education Month</i>					
Youth Frontier Conference					
4	5	6	7		
Independence Day	Bookstores Open FWB Press Closed Headquarters Closed				
Youth Frontier Conference					
11	12	13	14		
53rd Annual Homecoming at FWB Children's Home					
Youth Camp • July 1					
General Youth Conference					
18	19	20	21		
General Youth Conference					
25	26	27	28		
Youth Camp • July 2					
Young People's Bible Conference					



erns \_\_\_\_\_

member \_\_\_\_\_

THU		FRI		SAT	
1		2		3	
A • June 28 – July 3 • Cragmont Assembly					
8		9		10	
AFC • July 5–10 • Cragmont Assembly					
15		16		17	
• Camp Vandemere					
II • July 12–17 • Cragmont Assembly					
22		23		24	
I • July 19–24 • Cragmont Assembly					
29		30		31	
• Camp Vandemere					
ence • July 26–31 • Cragmont Assembly					

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

## *Third Central District Conference*

by Beth Dancil

By His glory, we thank God for His wonderful care to His people who trust in Him!

The Central District conducted its Third Central District Conference in Anilawan Free Will Baptist Church last March 2-4, 1999, at Anilawan Church, under Pastor Raul Galfo who is working as a pastor. The theme at the said occasion was "God's Plan for you and His church in these Last Days." We thank God for the successful conference. There are forty workers and delegates who attend in the said occasion.

Our speakers were: Rev. Dario Basingil, Rev. Nerei Peralta, Pastor Armando Mazano, Pastor Bernardo Borja, and Pastor Orlando Garcia. They spoke about the last days. I praise His goodness.

The Central District elected officers for the year 1999-2000.

- Chairman – Pastor Armando Manzano
- Vice Chairman – Pastor Orlando Garcia
- Secretary – Sister Beth Dancil
- Treasurer – Sister Letecia Segay
- Auditor – Pastor Raul Galfo
- C.R. – Brother Boy Dancil  
Pastor Arnel Cuba

These officers will do their job for the success of the work of the Lord. All central district workers will support for the work of the Lord.

Please pray for our new officers of the central district to have a commitment for the work.



## *Scholarship Presented*

Congratulations go to our former resident. On April 22, 1999, Enjoli Burnette was presented the Jan Brewer Scholarship Award at Mount Olive College Awards Day by the Rev. Frank Harrison, Mount Olive Campus Minister. She was chosen by a committee of faculty, student, and staff representatives for successfully overcoming adversity in pursuit of a college education. Enjoli — we are very proud of you. Keep up the good work!



## *Change for Our Children*



Mr. Elza Manning and Pastor Leonard Bowers, of Mt. Zion FWB Church, Nashville, NC, visited the Children's Home on May 17 to deliver pennies Mr. Elza Manning had personally collected for the "Change For Children" campaign. Thank you, Mr. Manning for your generosity and concern for the children.

## **BOY'S EMERGENCY SHELTER OPENS**

May 13, 1999, was the opening of our new emergency shelter, Canaan House, for boys. On May 14 we were accommodating six boys. Thank you for caring and helping us achieve our goal. Please continue to pray for all of "His" children.



# Annual Awards/Field Day

Another school year has gone by and excitement at the Children's Home is high. Beginning at 9:30 AM on Thursday, May 27, the FWB Children's Home celebrated the accomplishments of our children with an Awards Day in Memorial Chapel. Dr. Bobby Taylor, President/CEO, provided a moving and very special message "Reaching Up and Reaching Out." Miss Enjoli Burnette, Recreational Assistant and former resident, honored us with her beautiful voice in song. Campus Social Workers — Celinda Barnes, Robin Harvin, and Dawn Perry, presented the school awards for Best Math Grades, Best English Grades, Best History Grades, Best Science Grades, Highest GPA, Most Improved in School Behavior, Most Improved in School Academics, Most Studious, Citizenship, School Conduct, and School Attendance Certificates to our residents. The Rev. Lester Duncan closed our award program with a touching prayer. A pig-pickin' and field day followed the ceremony.



*And To End The Day  
Unforgettable Laughter and  
Cherished Memories*



**53rd Annual Homecoming**  
July 11, 1999  
Free Will Baptist Children's Home

## Pool Preparation

With summer here, Mr. Batchelor has been busy cleaning and painting the campus swimming pool for our June 7 Summer Program. To the residents, the days were long waiting to see the pool fill with water again.



# Conference Schedule for 1999

"...Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord... He will teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths..." (Isaiah 2:3, NIV).

Each summer there are six youth conferences scheduled to accommodate ages that range from 9-18. These conference all share common goals. (1) To proclaim the gospel to any young person who may not know Christ. (2) To teach the Work of God so that those who are already Christians may grow in their spiritual lives. (3) To show the youth of our day that recreation and times of fun do exist in the life of the Christian. Each day the young people who attend a conference are involved in Bible classes, recreation and worship services. These are very basic attributes to the Christian's life. At home in their normal routine, sometimes young people forget to include these things in their lives. It is our fervent prayer that those attending a youth conference at Cragmont will be grounded in their faith, making them stronger Christians when they leave their mountaintop experiences.

### Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 28 - July 3, 1999

Janie Sowers • 252-321-7542

PO Box 824 • Middlesex, NC 27557

### Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

July 5 - 10, 1999

Frankie Baggett • 252-746-7850

5403 Weyerhaeuser Road • Ayden, NC 28513

### General Youth Conference II

July 12 - 17, 1999

Chris Singleton • 910-298-3520

PO Box 162 • Beulaville, NC 28518

### General Youth Conference I

July 19 - 24, 1999

Bryant Hines • 252-633-2683

PO Box 266 • Cove City, NC 28523

### Young People's Bible Conference

July 26 - 31, 1999

James Gurganus • 252-223-5251

1317 Nine Foot Road • Newport, NC 28570

### August Women's Auxiliary Conference

August 2 - 7, 1999

Teresa Ball • 252-524-4677

6144 Weyerhaeuser Road • Grifton, NC 28530

## Chairs for Chapel

The Board of Directors of Cragmont have approved a new fund drive to outfit our chapel with stacking chairs. Currently, the chapel has pews which are cumbersome when it comes time to rearrange them for the different needs that groups may have when using the chapel. Stacking chairs will allow us to set up the chapel with great ease. We are asking for \$50 per chair. This will cover the cost of a nice durable stacking chair and cover the cost of shipping. "Chairs for Chapel" is a good way for individuals, Sunday school classes, women's auxiliaries or churches in general to help with a much needed project. All checks should be made out to Cragmont, earmarked "Chairs for Chapel."

## HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

### Original Free Will Baptists



### Through A Disaster Relief Ministry

On May 3, 1999, a very destructive and killer tornado swept through parts of Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. In this Midwest region, Oklahoma was hit the hardest with over 9,000 homes destroyed in the greater Oklahoma City area. The devastation was widespread and was best described when a resident who survived the storm said, "Everything is Gone." Entire housing subdivisions were wiped out.

cont....

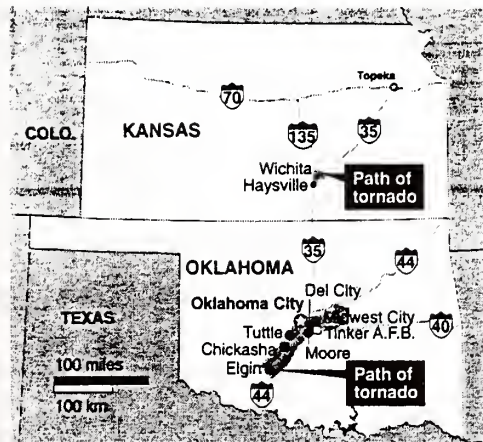


*Disaster Relief Ministry, cont....*

Home Missions has been in contact with relief organizations on site and has waited for their assessment. We continue to monitor the needs of how Original Free Will Baptists might respond. All contacts have indicated the best way to help is to provide monetary contributions. In addition, it has come to our attention that there is an Original Free Will Baptist connection in Del City, Oklahoma. Barbara Guzman, former member of Elm Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church of Ayden, NC, alumnus of Mount Olive College, and formerly served as an Original Free Will Baptist missionary to Mexico, lost everything (home and car included) and escaped only with her life. Barbara and her daughter have been placed in an apartment for now, but they continue to need assistance in rebuilding their daily lives and their home.

Not only do we want to assist Mrs. Guzman in replacing her home, but we as Original Free Will Baptists need to help others in the Oklahoma area who have experienced the same devastation. **The needs are great and our help is needed now.**

Thank you for your anticipated response toward this relief effort. Your financial contribution should be made out to Home Missions and Evangelism. Let us continue to pray for all the people impacted by this disaster.



## HILLSIDE: From Mission to Church Status

March 25, 1999, was a historical day for Hillside Original Free Will Baptist Church of Grifton, NC. On this date at 7:00 PM, members of the Central Conference Executive Committee, the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism, Convention President, the Rev. Leon Grubbs, Convention General Administrator, Dr. David C. Hansley, members of Hillside Mission, and friends met to officially organize and move Hillside Original Free Will Baptist Mission to Church status. This joyous event was filled with great moments as each area of responsibility was explained and accepted. Election of Church officers, Presentation of the Bible, Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government, Church Covenant, Original Free Will Baptist Mission Statement, and the Prayer of Consecration with the right hand of fellowship being extended by the Central Conference to Hillside Original Free Will Baptist Church, all with special singing and testimonies, showed forth God's faithfulness and blessings. Pastor Eldon Brock and the people of Hillside Original Free Will Baptist Church thank you for your prayers and support. Continue to pray for the success of the gospel and the ministry at this new church.



*Rev. Al Markuson, Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism shares opening remarks.*



*From left to right: Revs. Leon Grubbs, Joey Williams, Eldon Brock – Pastor, Walter Reynolds, JB Narron, Ray Williamson, and Frankie Baggett.*



*Hillside Original Free Will Baptist Church Organizational Meeting/Service on March 25, 1999.*

THE CONNECTION

Local Church

 **Home Missions & Evangelism** 

Home Missions

Spanish Missions

Ethnic Missions

Mooresville – Mooresville, NC

Sunrise Landing – Point Harbor, NC

Park Lane – Havelock, NC

Charity – Whiteville, NC

CrossRidge – Hope Mills, NC

Covenant of the Deaf – Hope Mills, NC

Hillside–Grifton, NC  
Moved to Church Status 3–25–99

Beaufort, North Carolina

Calypso, North Carolina

Morehead City, North Carolina

Duplin County

Future Works

Wayne County

Cumberland County

Sampson County

Wilson County

Porterville, California

Merced, California

Fresno, California

Hickory, North Carolina

Albemarle, North Carolina

Banning, California

Sacramento, California

Stockton, California

Moreno Valley, California

Modesto, California

St. Paul, Minnesota

Santa Ana, California

Marysville, California

High Point, North Carolina



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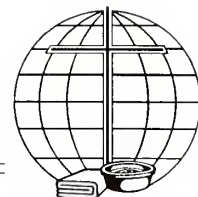
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# People & Events

*Happenings throughout the Denomination*



## **Pee Dee District Woman's Auxiliary 1999 Life Membership Award Honoring Mrs. Mary Ellen (Linda) Hewett Bryan April 3, 1999**

submitted by Nancy Hardee

We, as the Pee Dee District Woman's Auxiliary Convention, would like to honor a very special lady today. There are many ladies in our district who are very deserving of this special recognition.

Our district as well as our local and state has truly been blessed by this lady and her work that she has done for our Convention. She has served in about every office of our auxiliary work in one place or another, and has done an outstanding job in any area she was placed.

Her life can be compared to many Christian women of the Bible, like Lemuel's mother in Proverbs 31:10, "...her price is far above rubies," and in Proverbs 20:15, "There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel;" also 1 Corinthians 4:2, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." All these Scriptures and many more can be compared to this lady's Christian life. There are no gold or rubies that can come close to what she means to everyone. As the Scripture says, "She's a friend that loveth at all times." This she shows in so many ways, she denies herself to help others, whether it's in trouble or on a happy occasion. I remember so many of the happy occasions in which she has lead and directed us, the ladies of Oak Grove Church, and we will never forget the love she has shown to us and the district as well.

As I think of her stewardship and faithfulness, she is like a beacon in a lighthouse that is always there to lead

and guide.

The Epistle of 2 John is addressed to the "Elect Lady" and her children. Although it is believed to be speaking to the church, we also can view this epistle as advice to Christian mothers. It surely impresses the importance of the mother's love and role in the home. It is said that the father is the head, but the mother is the heart of the family. She must encourage and protect love in the home, the love of God, and the mutual love in the family. She must strive to see to it that this love which grows within the family can reach outside the home and express itself in love for others. This is the kind of love this mother has that we are honoring today and she shares with others.

This lady has been a faithful church member as well as a faithful Auxiliary member for about thirty years.

She was the first of four children born to the family of the Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Hewett and became the beautiful bride of Grover Carson Bryan, Jr., on May 16, 1969. To this union, they are blessed with three fine children and four beautiful grandchildren that "Nana" loves dearly. Their adult children are Gary, Stephen and Stefanie.

Gary is married to a wonderful young lady, Renee Porter Bryan and they are blessed with three boys — little Gary, Austin, and Lewis, and they live right next door to Nana and Papa. Their other son, Stephen, is still

a handsome young bachelor and lives in Greenville, NC. Stefanie, their only daughter, is married to a fine young man, Kenneth Burney, and they have a beautiful three-month-old daughter, Mary Allyson.

She graduated from Pembroke State University, Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education. She taught thirteen years in Special Education at Bladen Middle School in Elizabethtown. For the past two years, she has served as Special Populations Coordinator and Job Broker for Bladen County Schools.

We want to thank God for sending this lady our way, and letting her be a part of our lives.

At this time, I would like to present you our 1999 Pee Dee District Woman's Auxiliary Honoree, Mrs. Mary Ellen (Linda) Bryan.



*Mary Ellen (Linda) Bryan*

## People & Events

### *Easter Story Depicted in Drawing*

The youth of Rose of Sharon Original Free Will Baptist Church in Martin County, NC, recently presented a short vignette during the 11:00 AM worship service. After the youth director seated the members of Children's Church around the pulpit, she told the story of Easter. As she depicted the events surrounding the Crucifixion of Jesus, Jonathan Cowin, a rising eighth grade student at Bear Grass School, began to "chalk out" an illustration of the events that took place.

The adults and the children were spellbound as the story and drawing took place. Spontaneous applause rewarded the young artist as he presented the completed artwork to the congregation at the end of the story.



*Jonathan Cowin and his drawing.*

### *Powhatan Presents Trophies to Youth*

*submitted by Rita Otto Jones*

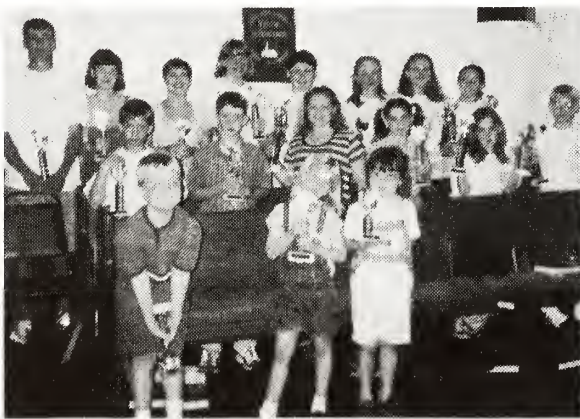
The May 8th Fund Raiser for summer camp succeeded in raising sufficient funds to send all our children who planned to go, to Cragmont! Thank you to Sarah Carroll for organizing the menu and to the *Smith Family* for the gospel singing held after the supper. Thank you to the congregation for all the support for the Youth. Poor Sarah fell and broke her arm following the weekend's activities; so remember

her for her special dedication.

On Mother's Day, hanging baskets were given by the Woman's Auxiliary to some of the mothers in the church. One went to Leona Coats as the oldest mother present; one to Tracie Bunn as the youngest; and one to Sheila Eason for having the most children present with her. Congratulations and a "thank you" to all mothers.



*Powhatan Youth*



*Youth group receiving awards. From left to right, row 1: Gregory Bass, Katlyn Howell, Hayley Benson; row 2: Clay Coates, Lance Cavanaugh, Summer Davis, Kelsey Coats, Nicole Lee, Will Allen; row 3: Chris "Bags" Bagley, Sarah Cavanaugh, Kristen Davis, Roberta Widhalm, Cynthia Narron, Dani Allen, Crystal Guy, Nikki Jones.*

Many members of the Youth Group attended the Youth Convention on May 14-16 at Mount Olive College. It was a beautiful, cool weekend and a wonderful time of fellowship. Our first place winners all represented our church well, and the AFC Bible Bowl team gave another great performance against the Winterville YFA team. Thank you to the Youth Officers, Dianne Riley, Mount Olive College, and all others who planned and coordinated the great Convention.

A baptism was held at

Powhatan on May 16 and cherubs Joey Markle and Spencer Hill were baptized. YFA member Brittany Gordon was baptized for a second time at the service. Spencer is almost the same age as his father, Roger, was when he was baptized many years ago at Powhatan. Congratulations to all three of these youth.

Powhatan was again a sponsor for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life held May 21-22 at Johnston Community College. Team leader Vicky Bagley made the survivor's opening lap with Mavis Barbour and Allan Price. She addressed the group and said she prayed a cure could be found so the little children gathered

cont....



*Powhatan Presents Trophies to Youth, cont....*

near the stage would never have to suffer as she has over the past seven years in her fight. Her diligent fight has been such an inspiration to all who know her, but she grows weaker each day. Please lift her up in a special way as we continue to pray and fast on her behalf.

The Sunday evening service on May 23 was a "sample" of the Bible Bowl for the congregation between the YFA and AFC teams. Following the explanation and demonstration, trophies were presented to the youth who entered any of the competitions this spring, and plaques were given to several adults who assisted with their preparation or performance. We want to encourage all the youth to start planning how they would like to participate in the — *Competition 2000* — next year.

Senior Sunday was held on May 30 with Daniel Cole and Jeremy Jones honored with the gift of a Bible from the church. Family, friends, and church members wished them well as they graduated.

May ended with Memorial Day and flags placed by the Woman's Auxiliary at the graves of all veterans buried in the cemetery in honor of their service to our country. Flag lapel pins were presented to any veterans present at the Sunday morning worship service on May 30.

*In Memoriam:* Mrs. Penny Barbour went to be with the Lord on May 9, 1999. Please remember her family as well as the many friends who will miss her from Powhatan.

*Free Will Baptist Leaguers meet with the Free Will Baptist Youth Convention*

Two great organizations met and joined forces on May 15, 1999. During the annual convention of the FWB Youth Convention, FWB Leaguers met for a special program in Rodger's Chapel at Mount Olive College. The League used this opportunity to showcase the work of this ministry in the cause of Christ. The program began with a devotion that stressed giving of our best to the service of our Lord. This was followed by an exhibition of the League Sword Drill. As usual it was exciting and fun. The centerpiece of the program was a dramatic presentation by Heather White from Hickory Chapel FWB Church, and the Leaguers from First FWB Church Goldsboro, under the direction of Sharlene Howell. This program spoke of "heritage." The League is a Free Will Baptist heritage that has not out lived its value. We have much to offer the youth and adults within the FWB Church. We welcomed adult, intermediate, and junior participants in our Sword Drill at our own annual convention on April 15, 1999 at the First FWB Church Goldsboro.

If you have questions about the League please contact Becky Jo Sumner, Route 4 Box 410, Ahoskie, NC 27910, (252) 332-6810.

*Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*

The match is struck! The fuse is lit! The music fills the room with exciting expectation! Time for another viewing of the "Mission Impossible" show! 'I Think Not.'

This was the "attention getter" beginning for the 1999 Original Free Will Baptists Youth Convention held May 14, 15, 16, at Mount Olive College. In another moment you understood the reason for this unusual start to the Convention. The theme was "Mission Impossible" based on Matthew 19:25-26. This was only the beginning of the three day meeting filled with the challenge to witness for Christ in every facet of daily living — home, school, community.

As Convention members watched district winners show their God-given talents to the glory of God, they knew that the ability to make this challenge was a reality was within their grasp. It was obvious as the youth presented a check for \$8,094.58 to Home Missions and Evangelism, the 1999 Youth Project, that they were on the way already to living up to the challenge. This was further proven as the youth announced their 2000 project to assist in purchasing a van for the Retirement Homes Ministry.

The "Mission Possible" theme was reaffirmed by guest speaker Stuart Hall of Challenge 2000. He invited Free Will Baptists youth to join in a nation-wide project to bring the saving presence of Jesus Christ into every school in the United States during the year 2000. The call to commitment to the cause of Christ in the daily lives of the youth was presented by Pastor Terry Whittenton in his messages on Saturday night and Sunday morning. A touching dramatization was presented by the Robert's Grove FWB youth Saturday evening that showed the success of a mission built upon the foundation of Jesus. As the Convention came to a close youth gathered in mass around the altar in Rodger's Chapel to pray their own personal prayers of dedication to a mission made possible through Jesus the Christ.

"...with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

## 70th Wedding Anniversary Celebration!

The Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark and his wife Annie celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on May 11, 1999. A celebration was held at their home in Durham, NC with several family members. The following family members were in attendance: their son Fred Jr., and his wife Myrna, daughter June Critcher and her daughter Del Antonucci, daughter Faye Davis and her daughter Pam Ausley, Pam's children, Season and Chad. Food and fellowship were enjoyed by all. The Rev. Rivenbark is grateful to God for the many blessings he and his wife have experienced these 70 years together.

### 70 Years of Faith

*70 years ago on May 11, 1928, my grandparents, Fred and Annie married one another,  
On faith that their love could last through it all.*

*It began with faith in love.*

*Then came their faith in God, after they accepted Christ their future took a turn.*

*Granddaddy felt a call from God to serve Him.*

*And that he did!*

*His faith led him to start 13 churches, and preach God's truth to thousands of souls.*

*Because of his faith many are in Heaven now, and others will be there in the here after.*

*Mamabark was a big part of this faith, she was his support, his right arm and mother to his children.*

*And what a great mother she was. Driving her kids to the best school, pool, cooking and  
cleaning and caring for their three children.*

*And her strict way was only out of love.*

*She is most known for her saying, "if you can't say something nice about someone, don't say anything at all."*

*Her favorite verse was "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."*

*She persevered through it all, moving to a new town, meeting new people, dealing with life and it's difficulties,  
sometimes alone as granddaddy was at a revival.*

*She was strong in her faith. Her traditions were strong, and I thank her for that.*

*I loved her organization skills, her sewing ability and more, but mostly her 7 layer chocolate cake!*

*And her love for granddaddy, all those years, faithful and always there to support him.*

*And she was always faithful to Christ.*

*Even in the last few years of her health failing she'd sing Bible songs and quote verses from the Bible.*

*What a woman of faith! Thank you Mamabark!*

*Now I wouldn't be the person I am today without the direction I've gained from my granddaddy.*

*His laughter, hugs and kisses and everlasting faith.*

*He taught me faith everyday of his life, especially the last few years with his faith to  
care for my grandmother in her time of need.*

*I'm so thankful I could be near him all my life.*

*Thankful my mom would let me go spend summers with Granddad and Mamabark.*

*Going to revivals, fried chicken dinners and making homemade ice-cream.*

*I'm so glad Granddad that you dedicated me to the Lord for my parents as a baby.*

*I'm so glad you were preaching one Sunday when I was 9, and I went forward to accept Jesus Christ.*

*Then you baptized me, married Bill and I, and finally dedicated all three of our children to the Lord.*

*Thank you God for 70 years for this faithful man and woman.*

*They helped me stay out of so much sin.*

*Yes through watching their faith and example.*

*As a teenager the first people I thought about before making a really bad decision was*

*Mamabark and Granddaddy and how would they feel.*

*Then as an adult when I made mistakes I would fix them and not give up to Satan.*

*Their faith is now passed on to me and my children.*

*I carry on their faith through raising my kids, my marriage, and church ministries.*

*Thank you for 70 years of faith.*

*With love from your granddaughter Pam*

*May 1999*



## Appreciation Day at Goldsboro First Free Will Baptist Church

by Hazel Casey

On Sunday, May 16, 1999, the First Free Will Baptist Church of Goldsboro, NC held a special appreciation day to honor their pastor, the Rev. Norman Ard and wife, Margaret, for 20 years of service. The pastor was told that he did not have to do anything but sit in the church and listen.

Wilber Shirley conducted the morning service, and there were three speakers who had known pastor Ard for a long time, and they shared some feelings of how much they appreciated the service that the church had been given down through the years. Although the Ard's commuted from Pink Hill, they were very faithful. When someone was in the hospital, the pastor was always there. We are proud of our Pastor, for he is mission minded. He was on the Foreign Missions Board for some years and traveled to India during that time. He helped us to reach out to those in foreign lands and also at home. Our church is involved with United Church Ministries, Battered Women, Soup Kitchen, and we also have a ministry to the Rest Home in which we have a service every month.

Wilber Shirley told of the many years that he has known Brother Ard, and how we came to consider securing him as pastor. He told us that the Rev. James Evans advised him to contact Rev. Ard concerning the pastorate of our church. After some time of filling in for us, God led Pastor Ard to become pastor. He was on sick leave several times during the 20 years and God always sent someone to take over for him until he was well. On one occasion, God sent the Rev. Emmett Jones to fill in for the pastor, even before we needed him. We serve a Great God, and He has never forgotten us.

The Ard's have been involved in all the phases of the church. Mrs. Ard teaches Sunday school and youth group, and is involved in the work of the auxiliary and Bible school. Both of the Ard's sing in the choir. Brother Ard is part of the Men's Quartet.

Since Rev. Ard and his wife have been at the church we have built a new educational building, complete with a secretary's office, pastor's study, and library. We also have built a beautiful fellowship hall, with a kitchen, and parlor. We needed more parking space, and we bought land adjoining our parking lot. Now we have ample parking space. We are debt free, and we give all the thanks to God who made it all possible.

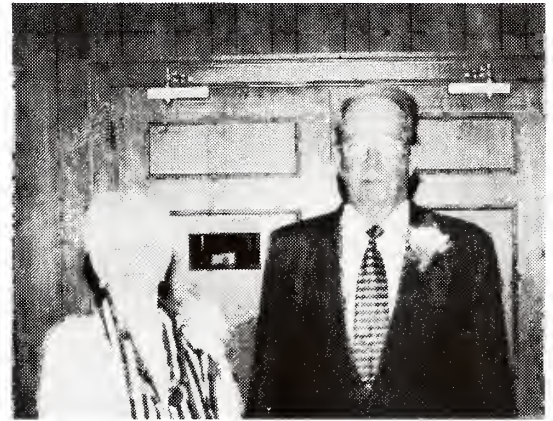
We have gained many new members in the last 20 years, but we have lost many of our older members in death. When he came, he had a family of five, now he has a family of 15, and we love each one of them.

Shelton Rhodes told us that he had known Rev. Ard for 40 years, and that he always preached the Word of God, and the Word is just what we needed. He told of the different times in his life when Pastor Ard had been a blessing to him and his family.

After the morning worship service, we had a catered lunch in the fellowship hall which was enjoyed by all. Gifts were given to the pastor and his wife.

Sunday night the pulpit was filled by Miss Marci Rollins, an honored freshman at Mount Olive College. She brought a very inspiring and touching message. We are so proud of Mount Olive College, and what it is doing for our young people.

We are pleased to have our devoted pastor and his wife to lead us in our worship services.



The Rev. and Mrs. Ard

## Inspirational Youth Meeting Held at Powhatan

submitted by Rita Otto Jones

The Cape Fear District Youth enjoyed an exciting meeting on June 5. Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church in Clayton hosted the event and presented a play about "The Gates of Heaven," using nearly all of the church youth in the production. Youth Director, Wanda Benson, wanted to present a program that would have an effect, and all the youth members worked hard to give a convincing performance. Teenagers Chris Bagley and Roberta Widhalm portrayed a busy couple and did a wonderful job of showing how parents can think they are too busy to spend time on what is really important in life.

The story line follows a middle class family who had lost a son earlier to an automobile accident and who had a dedicated Christian maid where the children ask, "Why don't we go to church like she does?"

Many excuses are offered, but as the father drifts off to sleep in his recliner, he begins to dream of what it will be like at the pearly gates. He sees strangers, friends, and even his own son at the gates in his dream. He awakes and calls his family to him and prays to God, thanking Him for the opportunity to correct his ways before it is too late.

The audience faced the question themselves of whether their name would be written in the Book of Life. The altar was crowded at the end of the

cont....

## People & Events

### *Inspirational Youth Meeting..., cont....*

play, with two individuals coming to be saved.

Members Linda Smith spoke out at the end of the invitation, praising the ministers who were present. One of the characters in the play was a sad, young man from a shelter who asked the audience, "Why didn't you tell me about Jesus? Now it's too late." A voice off stage asked, "How will they hear without a preacher?" Linda thanked all those who work to spread God's Word. The Rev. Jim Bogle of Powhatan had made the spirited altar call. The Rev. Philip Boykin of Lee's Chapel had come forward and counseled with one of the young women on the altar who had accepted Christ as her Saviour.

A pastor very special to me was present for the service, the Rev. Clearon Coats, who was our pastor from 1953 til 1962. I remember when Powhatan had two short pews on each side of the old floor furnace; and on winter Sundays as a child, I would always sit on the short pew by the furnace. Rev. Coats would make a point of stopping by, giving me a pat on the head, a kind word, and a stick of Juicy Fruit! I'm sure that's how he treated all the children, but it made each of us feel special. He was the "planter" for my Christian life: planting seeds, spreading God's love.

As a teenager, I was greatly influenced by another man present in the audience. The Rev. Lloyd Hargis was my teacher, youth choir leader, and friend. He was my "caretaker" for many years, fertilizing, watering and even pruning when necessary.

The Rev. Billy Nowell, a member of the audience, was the pastor at Powhatan from 1979-1981 and ministered to me through the birth of my first child and the passing of my mother.

All of these pastors are very special servants of God. How fortunate we are to have men who are willing to teach the Word and shepherd the flocks!

As I looked at the different pictures of previous pastors in one of our hallways, I thought about what an influence each one had (and is having) on people through the years. I was telling one of our youth members what I remembered about each one. He noticed the Sunday school perfect attendance pin with many years of additions on the picture of the Rev. W. H. Lancaster (Pastor from 1941-1953) and asked me what they were. I told him it used to be very important, getting a pin each year. But quietly, over the years, the hectic lifestyle of so many families has decreased the chances of perfect attendance until our youth may not even know what the pins are or what they mean. When I was a child, it was such an honor to go up and receive those pins! I suppose it is sadly just another sign of the times.

With heritage month coming up in August, please remember to thank those who have influenced your Christian growth. My family has been at Powhatan since its beginnings in 1888. We had a family reunion in the fellowship hall on June 6, and my uncle Doug Atwood told each of us to enjoy the meal, but to love each other and enjoy the family togetherness more. In Psalms 16:5-6, we read, "The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup; ...yea, I have a goodly heritage." I appreciate all the leaders of Powhatan through the years; especially the Revs. Bogle, Nowell, Hargis, and Coats who attended the Saturday youth program, supporting and encouraging the next generation of Free Will Baptists.

## *Smyrna Youth Writes Memorial Day Article*

The youth of Smyrna Original Free Will Baptist Church, Dunn, NC, are in charge of the fifth Sunday service each month. Since the last fifth Sunday was a part of Memorial Day weekend, the following was printed on the bulletin for that Sunday. It was written by Carle G. Allen.



*So many times I've often wondered how  
we came to be so free  
Why all of those soldiers fought for our country  
and died  
And when I think of how they stood up  
for what they believed  
I wonder what was going through their minds.*

*Did they know they would be heroes,  
great reminders of bravery  
Or that one day their names would be inscribed  
in a great stone wall  
Did they even consider that they were fighting  
for you and me  
For people they didn't even know were alive.*

*I can't even begin to imagine the way  
they must have felt  
Representing our country, dying so we could be free  
And when I think of how they saved us  
from agony and defeat  
I am so glad that God sent them to rescue me.*

*Even though they freed our country,  
and gave us a new start  
We must still remember the one who gave us life.  
God not only sent the soldiers to die for you and me  
But He sent his own son Jesus as a sacrifice.*

*Jesus came to this world from Glory,  
a soldier in his own way  
The Son of God, sent to us from Heaven above  
He created each of us, He wanted us to be free  
And he proclaimed his love as He hung on that old  
rugged cross.*





*Youth Convention  
of Original Free Will Baptists  
Bible Bowl Winners*

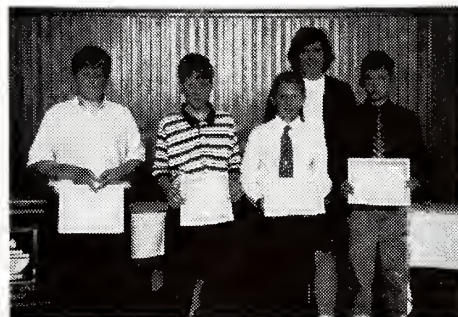


AFC — 1st Place  
Powhatan



YFA — 1st Place  
Winterville

*Topic:  
The Loving Touch of Jesus*



AFC — 2nd Place  
Winterville



YFA — 2nd Place  
Powhatan



AFC — 3rd Place  
Black Jack



YFA — 3rd Place  
Black Jack

**Singin'  
By the River**

**Camp Vandemere**  
Saturday, August 14, 1999  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Spend a wonderful, relaxing day on the shore of the Bay River enjoying the tranquility of nature and the inspiring sounds of gospel music provided by these Original Free Will Baptist Groups:

- The Four In Christ Quartet**
- The Second Edition Quartet**
- Covenant**
- Trinity**

**The Smith Family**  
from Powhatan FWB Church,  
Clayton  
and

**Servant's Heart**  
from Pleasant Grove FWB Church,  
Pikeville

**ADMISSION IS FREE**  
an offering for Camp Vandemere  
will be received  
Plenty of food and soft drinks  
will be available.  
Join us for a day of fun, feasting,  
fellowship and great music.  
At the 1999 Camp Vandemere  
Singin' By The River

**CHURCHES AND  
MINISTERS AVAILABLE**

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. Charlie Tucker is available for pastoral work, revivals, or pulpit supply. He may be contacted at 701 Holding Street, Clayton, NC 27520 or by phone at 919-550-9326.

Hickory Grove OFWB Church, Central Conference is seeking a pastor. If interested, please send resume to: Joseph Williams, PO Box 850, Robersonville, NC 27871

**Organist needed for Reedy Branch FWB Church.**  
If interested, you may contact either  
Lois Averette at 756-8818 or Dean Wingate at 321-1892

# THE 3RD ANNUAL CONVENTION GOLF FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, September 14, 1999  
Southern Wayne Country Club  
Mount Olive, North Carolina

Shotgun Start at 12:15 PM

4-man Superball

Any Handicap Combinations

Limited to the first 22 teams to register by phone or mail.

### Trophies and Prizes

1st place team — Valued at over \$100 per player

2nd place team — Valued at over \$75 per player

3rd place team — Valued at over \$50 per player

Plus

One participant will receive a gift certificate from "Golf, etc"  
of New Bern, NC good for a set of Custom-Made Golf Clubs (3-SW)

Retail value of this prize — \$500

Tickets for this prize, and many others,  
may be purchased on tournament day

Red Bombs — \$5 each (limit 2 per player)

Entry Fee includes 1 MULLIGAN per player;

1 additional Mulligan per player at \$5

### IMPORTANT:

Participants must be included in one of the following categories:

\*An Original Free Will Baptist Minister (licensed or ordained) or their spouse

\*An employee of an Original Free Will Baptist ministry or their spouse

\*A member of an Original Free Will Baptist Church or Sunday School

### Entry Fee: \$160.00 per team

Please return this registration form, along with your entry fee only, as soon as possible to: Buddy Sasser, 2216 Ridge Road, New Bern, NC 28560.

Make checks payable to: Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include total team entry fee with your registration if possible.

\_\_\_ Entry fee included                      \_\_\_ Will pay at the tournament.

Team Members

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I wish to be placed on a team

\_\_\_ I will serve as a volunteer worker

For phone registration or additional information,  
please call Buddy at (252) 638-9012.

## AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Material for publication in "The Free Will Baptist" must be received no later than the 10th of the month preceding the date of publication (example: items for the August issue must be in no later than the tenth of July). If the 10th falls on either Saturday or Sunday, the deadline will be extended by one day.

Your cooperation in meeting the deadline will be greatly appreciated.



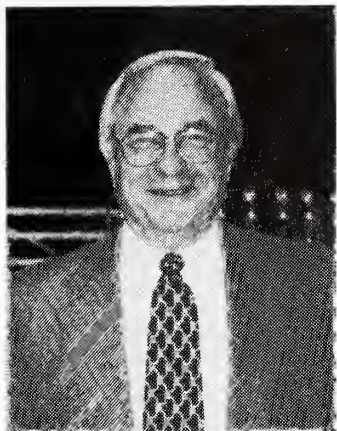
The editorial staff of the Free Will Baptist Press is always ready to help you get your news items and articles published. Following are some suggestions for making the process easier.

- Type all copy, (please, no hand-written). Use 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> X 11 inch paper.
- Keep a copy of material (include your phone number so the staff may call if there are questions about your copy.)
- Write no more than one article to a page.
- Clip pages together, using a paper clip. Do not staple pages.
- Read, reread, and correct your own copy.
- Registration forms will be printed in no more than two issues, and only one unless requested to do so.
- Full-page announcements will be printed in only one issue. If more than one printing is necessary, it will be reduced to one or two columns.
- Please do not send camera-ready articles. It is better if we set material in our own style, etc.
- Please remember that the editor makes the final decision as to whether an article should be published or not. Articles and items that are not dated, may be printed in a later issue.
- Send articles to: The Editor, The Free Will Baptist Press, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513-0159.

We express our appreciation to the churches and individuals who provide us with the news items and articles for publication. You are helping us to record a history of our denomination. Please keep up the good work. We will do our part to serve you through the pages of *The Free Will Baptists*.



## Free Will Baptist Press Loses Board Member



Dr. Austin Carter

The Free Will Baptist Press Board of Directors met in its regular session on May 18. Dr. Austin Carter had served on the Board since 1995 and was present, as usual. At lunch he had joined other board members, along with a number of FWB Press employees. He was in his usual upbeat mood, enjoying the meal and the fellowship of the hour. In the Board meeting that followed, he proved to be his usual self, offering suggestions and comments as

the meeting progressed. Thus, when word was received of his sudden death on May 19, it was with shock and disbelief. Dr. Austin Carter was too young and too valuable to lose, but in matters of life and death we are not in control.

Dr. M. Austin Carter was only 56 years old. He was born August 8, 1942, to the late Rev. Walter Carter and Esther Richardson Carter of Richmond County. Dr. Carter was an ordained Free Will Baptist minister. He held membership in the East Rockingham Free Will Baptist Church of the Piedmont Conference. At his death he was serving as Assistant Superintendent of Duplin County Schools.

He is survived by his wife, Faye Sutton Carter of the home; two sons, Austin Steve Carter of Kinston and Geoffrey Alan Carter of Mount Olive; one daughter, Marsha Carter Pittman of Greenville, NC; one sister-in-law, Ruby Carter of Petersburg, VA; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 22, at Faison Presbyterian Church in Faison, NC. The Rev. Joseph Fountain officiated, assisted by the Rev. David C. Hansley, General Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Visitation was held on May 21 at Community Funeral Home of Warsaw. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Duplin County Educational Foundation or to the Ayden Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Ayden, NC.

He was licensed to preach on October 8, 1961, and was ordained into the gospel ministry in August of 1962 by the Piedmont Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. He served as pastor of the following churches: Oak Grove, Newton Grove, NC; Saratoga, Saratoga, NC; and Gum Swamp, Belvoir, NC. In addition to serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press, he had also served as Director of Development for Mount Olive College and later as Director of Public Relations. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Piedmont Conference of Original Free Will Baptists.

Fellow ministers, as well as those associated with the Free Will Baptist Press; will miss his influence and enthusiastic approach to life.

## Obituary

### The Rev. Elbert E. Edwards

The Rev. Elbert E. Edwards, 82, formerly of 5633 NC Highway 33 East, Chocowinity, died Thursday, May 27, 1999, at Britthaven of Washington.

His funeral was held at 2:00 PM, Saturday, May 29, at Memorial Free Will Baptist Church in Chocowinity, with the Revs. Owen Arthur, C.H. Overman, and Mike Scott officiating. Burial with Masonic rites followed at the Edwards Family Cemetery.

Members of Washington Masonic Lodge 675 and Orr Lodge 104 served as pallbearers. Edwards' fellow ministers served as honorary pallbearers.

Edwards was born August 7, 1916, in Chocowinity, son of the late Fenner Augustus and Sadie "Gay" Godley Edwards. On December 25, 1936 he married the former Thelma Toler, who survives, and is a resident of Britthaven of Washington. Edwards was a retired merchant in a rural grocery store, a retired mail carrier, having served both in Chocowinity and Bayboro, and a Free Will Baptist minister since 1948. He was a veteran of the US Navy, having served during World War II. Edwards was a member of Memorial Free Will Baptist Church and the adult Sunday school class. He had served in many capacities in the various ministries of the Fifth Eastern District of Original Free Will Baptists. He was a member of Washington Masonic Lodge 675, and was a 50-year member of Tau Tribe 18 Improved Order of the Redmen Lodge of Washington. Edwards was also a member of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Edwards had pastored many Free Will Baptist churches, including Pilgrim's Rest of Cedar Island, Mt. Zion of Roper, Mt. Zion of Cash Corner, Wintergreen of Cove City, Union Chapel of Plymouth, Pleasant Hill of Greenville, Ephesus of Blounts Creek, Palmetto of Vanceboro, Oriental, Trent of Merritt, Trinity of Pantego, Dublin Grove of Aurora, and Edgewood of Pinetops. He was also instrumental in the organizing of Memorial in Chocowinity in the early 1960s, where he and his wife became members following his retirement due to disability in 1975.

In addition to his wife, survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Lexa Edwards Upton and William Upton of Chocowinity; one son and daughter-in-law, Elbert Gordon Edwards and Ida Marie Edwards of Chocowinity; three brothers, Hubert and Roy Edwards, both of Chocowinity, and Edward Ray Edwards of Washington; two sisters, Dora Lee Walker of Chocowinity, and Viola Howard of Washington; three grandchildren, Sabrina Upton Naiman, Ann Marie Edwards Crisp and her husband, Jessie, and Chris Edwards and his wife, Stephanie; and three great-grandchildren, Brittany Michelle Fennell, Christian Naiman, and Andy Crisp.

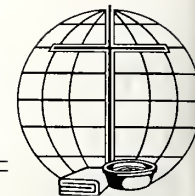
Edwards was preceded in death by two sisters, Marie Edwards Kenny and Ruby Faye Edwards Bradley, and by three brothers, A. Mayhew Edwards, L. Milburne Edwards, and Preston Edwards.

The family received friends at the home of William and Lexa Upton.

Memorials may be sent to: The Widow Fund, Memorial FWB Ladies Auxiliary, 5683 NC Hwy 33 East, Chocowinity, NC.

# Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator



## Nominating Committee Announced

The officers of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists have appointed the Nominating Committee for the 1999 Convention: the Rev. Ray Wells, chairman; the Revs. Harry Grubbs, Jesse Fulcher, Robert May, Carlee Stallard, Garland Suggs, and James Sowers.

## Convention Nomination Procedures

An announcement of vacancies to be filled at the 1999 Convention is being made to the boards and committees of the Convention, churches, ministers, and in the *Free Will Baptist*, inviting recommendations. Recommendations must include the name, church occupation, and a short paragraph describing qualifications and/or gifts the person would bring to the board, committee, or office, and the name of the person or group making the recommendation. Recommendations will be received through July 31, 1999. The Nominating Committee will make its decisions, contact persons to be nominated, and prepare a written report for inclusion in the Convention Report Book. In the event the Nominating Committee decides to nominate someone not recommended by a board or director, the director will be consulted and the decision will be discussed.

## Resolution Committee

Please send any proposed Resolutions to: Convention Headquarters, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513; or to the Rev. Leon Grubbs, 2633 Plantation Circle, Kinston, NC 28504.

---

## RECOMMENDATION FORM

I (We) would like to recommend \_\_\_\_\_  
for consideration by the Nominating Committee to fill the vacancy:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the following information of the nominee:

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications and/or gifts this person would bring to the position:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person or group making the recommendation

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Mail form to Nominating Committee, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.  
Forms should be postmarked no later than July 31, 1999.)

## VACANCIES TO BE FILLED AT THE 1999 CONVENTION

### OFFICES:

Treasurer (2002)  
Secretary (2002)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Albemarle Conference Representative (2002)  
Pee Dee Conference Representative (2002)  
Piedmont Conference Representative (2002)  
Western Conference Representative (2002)

### CHILDRENS HOME BOARD:

3 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2003

### CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2000

### CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY STOCK REPRESENTATIVE:

2 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2002

### FOREIGN MISSIONS:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2003

### FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2000

### HOME MISSIONS:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2006

### MINISTERS PROGRAM:

1 vacancy with the term ending in the year 2003

### MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE:

5 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2005

### RETIREMENT MINISTRIES:

2 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2004

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

1 vacancy with the term ending in the year 2002

### CHAPLAINS COMMISSION:

1 vacancy with the term ending in the year 2004

### COMMISSION OF OFWB COLLEGE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2002

### HISTORICAL COMMISSION:

1 vacancy with term ending in the year 2002

### LAYMAN'S LEAGUE BOARD:

4 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2002

### SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD:

3 vacancies with terms ending in the year 2002



**ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS — REACHING OUR COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST**

*Come Together*

Our Saviour Jesus Christ called us as a church to reach our communities when He commanded us to "go and make disciples..." (Matthew 28:19). As we approach the start of a new millennium, God is raising up Christians across the Original Free Will Baptist denomination, with a renewed vision and enthusiasm, to share Christ in every community where we have a church. The Original Free Will Baptist Church is participating in a coalition that includes over 200 Christian Leaders representing over 180,000 churches, 70 denominations, and parachurch ministries, to form the MISSION AMERICA COALITION.

Mission America's national evangelism initiative, *CELEBRATE JESUS 2000*, offers a rallying point for Original Free Will Baptists to *COME TOGETHER* to pray for and share the gospel of Christ with every person in our communities. At the 1999 Convention, your church can obtain the creative resources to assist your people

in effectively reaching your community for Christ.

*From Our Vision Statement*

"...to participate in evangelism as mandated by Scripture and our love and compassion for people; and challenge Original Free Will Baptists to increase the number of persons doing ministry as mandated by the words and deeds of the Servant, Jesus Christ."



**Original Free Will Baptists Celebrate Jesus 2000**

**NIGHT OF EVANGELISM**

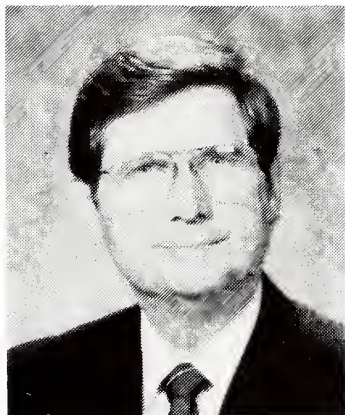
As the new millennium approaches, we find Original Free Will Baptists uniquely positioned for one of the most important efforts in the history of our church. We can play a key role in this most massive, intensive, and inclusive evangelistic outreach.

To learn how your church can participate in this endeavor for reaching your community for Christ and how to establish Lighthouses, you will need to make sure that your people attend the 1999 Convention on September 14-16 at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, North Carolina.

On Tuesday evening at 7:30 in College Hall, Dr. Larry Lewis, second to the staff of Mission America and National Facilitator for *Celebrate Jesus 2000*, will speak during our Night of Evangelism.

*Mission America* is a group of over 100 denominational and para ministry groups committed to support and participate in the vision of *Celebrate Jesus 2000*, with the goal "to pray for and share Christ with every person in America by year-end 2000 AD."

Please be reminded that we, as a domination, have declared that we will participate.



Dr. Larry Lewis



## 1999 Coming Events

August 2-7  
August Woman's Auxiliary Conf.  
Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain

August 7  
Singin' By The River  
All Day Gospel Sing  
Camp Vandemere, Vandemere

August 21-24  
Mexico Short-Term Team

August 22 — **Heritage Sunday**

August 29  
Scholarship Day, Mount Olive College  
Mount Olive

September 3-6  
Labor Day Weekend  
Headquarters Closed

September 7  
OFWB Press Foundation  
Membership Meeting

September 7  
Retirement Homes  
Board of Directors

September 11  
Choir Fest '99  
Mount Olive College, Mount Olive

September 13  
Cragmont Board Meeting  
Mount Olive College, Mount Olive

September 14  
Special Chapel Service  
Mount Olive College, Mount Olive

September 14-16  
**1999 Convention of OFWB**  
College Hall, Mount Olive College  
Mount Olive

September 14  
Night of Evangelism  
Mount Olive College, Mount Olive

September 15  
Sunday School Banquet and  
Mission Rally  
Mount Olive College, Mount Olive

September 18  
Eastern District  
Woman's Auxiliary Convention  
Mount Zion OFWB Church  
Vandemere

September 20  
Eastern Conference Ministerial  
Examining Board Meeting  
Conference Office  
Deep Run, NC

September 25  
Central District  
Woman's Auxiliary Convention

September 26-30  
Community Tent Revival  
Cove City, NC

October 2  
Cape Fear District  
Woman's Auxiliary Convention

October 6  
Western District  
Woman's Auxiliary Convention

October 6  
Albemarle Conference

October 7  
Albemarle District  
Woman's Auxiliary Convention

October 9  
Pee Dee District  
Woman's Auxiliary Convention

## August Is...

# Heritage Month

For  
**Original Free Will Baptists**

### PURPOSE:

1. To effectively know where we are going, we must understand from whence we have come.
2. To provide the opportunity for our people to reflect upon the importance of continuing ministry.
3. To show the *connection* between the congregation and the Convention.
4. To remind us all of our privilege and obligation to support the Church that we may continue our heritage.
5. To rekindle/revitalize our commitment of this ministry to the Church.
6. To participate financially in the maintenance of this ministry.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Congregation Sunday	August 1
Covenant Sunday	August 8
Mission/Ministry Sunday	August 15
Heritage Sunday	August 22
Celebrate Jesus 2000 Sunday	August 29

(Each church will be receiving a packet of materials with information and ideas for participating in the celebration of HERITAGE MONTH.)

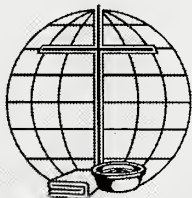


## You Can Make ... AN IMPACT!

From time to time our people, churches or church organizations are looking avenues to IMPACT the work of the Kingdom. The way you can help is by providing the necessary funds to meet our Headquarters needs. The following list is made available for your consideration.

1. Carpet Cleaning
2. Lighting and Wiring for New Sign
3. Framing for Heritage Hall Items
4. New Drapes for Reception Area
5. New Drapes for Convention Office
6. Door Mats
7. Landscaping for New Sign
8. Landscaping at Headquarters Entrance
9. Bookcases for Headquarters Library
10. Computer Desk
11. Cabinets and Counters for Reception/Secretary Area
12. Paint and Wallpaper Restrooms
13. Paint inside of Headquarters
14. Office Door Signs.

To discover how you can help meet the NEEDS of our Headquarters, contact the General Administrator at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, or call (252) 746-4963.



## Convention Personalities

During the 1999 Convention to be held in College Hall at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, North Carolina, on September 14 through September 16, the following persons will be sharing as we gather for our eighty-seventh annual session.



*The Rev. Leon Grubbs*

Dr. Larry Lewis is the National Facilitator for *Celebrate Jesus 2000* and will be speaking during our Night of Evangelism on Tuesday, September 14, 1999, and will deliver the keynote message on Wednesday morning, September 15, 1999.



*Dr. Larry Lewis*



*The Rev. Frank Harrison*

The Rev. Frank Harrison, Chaplain of Mount Olive College and a member of the Examining Board of the Cape Fear Conference, will deliver the message on Thursday morning, September 16, 1999.

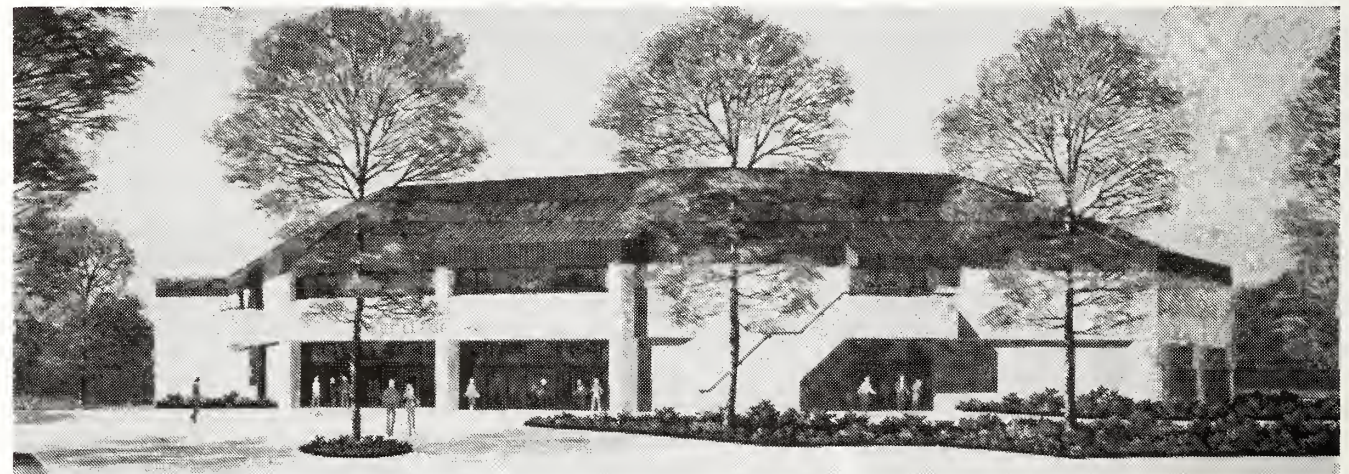


*The Rev. Norm W. Whan*

The Rev. Norm W. Whan President/Founder of Canning Hunger will be speaking during Home Missions Service, Wednesday, 7:30 PM.



# 1999 CONVENTION



**College Hall • Mount Olive College • Mount Olive, North Carolina**  
**September 14–16 (Tuesday, September 14 — Night of Evangelism)**  
**Theme: "A Call To The Harvest"**  
*(Please use for bulletin board in church or Sunday school class)*

## *The Free Will Baptist*

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# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



AUGUST 1999

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*Featuring:*

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*Israel's  
Perseverance  
in Exile  
(Part III)*

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*When God  
Calls*

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Christian  
Writing*





*C. H. Overman*

## *Our Personal Leaders — they taught what they knew*

Our lives from birth 'til death are influenced by others — those persons who at some point in our lives guide, advise, instruct, and serve as an example for us and to us. First, it was our parents who taught us, but not as a teacher in a classroom setting. They taught by precept and example. Thus, at an early age, we learned that it was right to go to Sunday school, to be honest, to show respect and love, to work hard, and hundreds of other virtues and qualities. The foundation of correct living was implanted by them; therefore, the other teachers only began to build upon that foundation. The parental rules and forms of discipline were seldom to our liking; however, we were being trained, but did not realize it at the time. Then came the early years in church and Sunday school. Someone was there to teach us about the Bible and about Jesus; and someone taught us to sing "This Little Light of Mine," and other children's choruses that we have never forgotten. Again, we were being taught and trained, and we did not realize what was taking place in our lives. They were our personal leaders — our teachers. And as we grew up there was always the influence of our parents. The lack of what we now call formal education seemed unimportant then, for they taught what they knew — right was right, wrong was wrong, and you better learn the difference. And we did.

Early adolescence and the teenage years brought others into our lives whom we listened to and learned from, and the molding of our lives continued. During college years, professors, counselors, and administrative officials fulfilled their roles in shaping our lives. As we advanced into adulthood, marriage, and parenthood, out of necessity and interdependence, we often sought and received the advice and council of the experienced.

Who were all those persons who helped to shape our lives? They were our personal leaders, those whom we loved, respected, and admired. For the most part, they were not men and women of renown — famous persons with names emblazoned on the pages of history. They were men and women of influence who were there in our lives at a particular time and place. They never realized the important roles they were playing; yet, they possessed the

characteristics and traits of leadership that enabled them to reach out, and we were drawn to them.

We remember them well — that Sunday school teacher who showed a special love for all children; that pastor or visiting evangelist who called us down to the front of the church during revivals to lead us in chorus singing, who divided the boys and girls into "Fords" and "Chevrolets" in competitive singing; that youth sponsor who understood teenagers and took the time to enjoy the weiner roasts with us and who also guided us in spiritual growth and into the responsibilities of young adulthood.

Over the years we become more appreciative of those leaders of the past. The successes in our lives are often traceable to their advice and leadership. Upon entering the ministry 47 years ago, it was the leaders of our church and denomination who helped me along the way. As various doors of service opened to me, it was those leaders who worked with me and believed in me. I could name them and describe occasions when they served as my special mentors and examples. Some have passed on from this life; others are no longer able to actively participate in leadership roles. As scenes of the past flash before my mind, I am reminded to thank God for all those who helped to fashion and shape my life — my parents, my Sunday school and school teachers, my pastors, ministers, and coworkers.

I now wonder how many lives I have helped to shape. What encouragements have I offered to others? How many children and youth have I challenged to live for Christ? What has been my influence on others who know me? As I think about the leaders who have helped me, my prayer is that I might do the same, and that what I have done has helped someone else, and that my failures be forgiven and forgotten.

What are the qualities of leadership? As we remember the leaders in our lives, we can identify those predominate qualities that influenced us. In our next editorial, we will look at those qualities — the qualities of a leader.



C. H. Overman, Editor  
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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

All materials for consideration in any issue must be in the hands of the editor thirty days prior to the publication date of that issue. Items for publication should be addressed to the Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, North Carolina 28513-0159.

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## NEXT MONTH

*September is  
Home Missions  
and Evangelism  
Month*

*August is  
Convention  
Promotion  
Month*

## *Israel's Perseverance In Exile*

### *Part Three — Waiting to Return*

by Edmundo G. Gonzalez

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion" (Psalm 137:1).

The captive Jewish nation had ample time to reminisce about their country in remembrance of things past. They were homesick for their old culture and their own way of life, notwithstanding the beauty and luxury of Babylon.

*Many... abandoned their faith and adopted the religion of their conquerors and so disappeared from history, like the ten tribes of Israel.*

The rivers of Babylon were the Tigris and Euphrates. These were but two of the four headstreams that watered the garden of Eden. Babylon was a garden of Eden to many of the exiled Jews. As the Judeans streamed past the streets of the walled city, they were held in awe at the sight of one of the wonders of the world. There was a vast contrast between Babylon and Judah. In comparison, Judah was a backward country that time seemed to have forgotten. Jerusalem was a small town, to the excellence of Babylon. The lofty walls of the city in no way resembled the great walls of Jerusalem in their splendor and beauty. The hanging gardens that Nebuchadnezzar built for Amytis, his Median wife, to remind her of her homeland bewildered the exiles. The towering domes of the temple and ziggurats (temple towers) were massive to be observed. The resplendent palaces were places where kings received lavished attention and later places where exiled Jews would be made to serve. How could the temple in Jerusalem, even with the ceremonials of its services, compare to the stateliness of the rites and sacrifices of the temple of Marduk or even Ishtar, chief gods of Babylon? Or with the gorgeous garments of the Babylonish priests with the simple vestments of Jerusalem's priests?

The market-stall wares were imported from remote people of the then known world whose very name could not be pronounced. Here, too, men called scribes kept bookstalls that were filled with wisdom.

Through this imposing proud city the Judean exile walked, overwhelmed. These were the people and place that had brought misfortune and pain to him and a host of his people. But time changes all things and as time went on, the personal life of the exiled Judean changed,

too. His thoughts now turned to a civilization that dazzled both he and his friends. It was great to be a Judean and never forget it, yet it might be just as well for his children to grow up as citizens of a powerful culture as that of Babylonia. Many of them abandoned their faith and adopted the religion of their conquerors and so disappeared from history, like the ten tribes of Israel. But there was still a remnant that continued in observance of the Holy One of Israel! Isaiah had prophesied, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again shall stay upon him who smote them, but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God (Isaiah 10:20-21).

Nebuchadnezzar was a cruel conqueror, but not a cruel master. He did not make slaves of the captured Jews. He ordered that they be settled in various parts of his provinces. The captives were to remain in Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom and not return to Jerusalem. They were permitted, however, to write letters home and to receive mail from those left behind.

The prophet Jeremiah took advantage of the "franking" privileges and wrote a lengthy letter to the captives, particularly to the priests and the prophets. The letter was hand delivered by Elasah and Gemariah (Jeremiah 29:3) to Nebuchadnezzar. The letter expressed what the Lord Almighty spoke to all those carried into exile. Not only were they to build houses, they were to plant gardens and subsist from what they produced. Marriage was to take place and they were to have sons and daughters. These nuptials were to be celebrated within the circle of the exiles, not outside their own people. They were to find wives for their sons and to give their daughters in marriage. Much later, when the captives were to return home, it was discovered that many of them had married into the gentile community, creating consternation for Ezra the scribe.

Jeremiah's letter gives us several facts about the remnant of the Jews in Babylon. The elders were allowed to continue their office. The office of the priest and the prophets continued intact.



They were to minister. The families remained together; they were not scattered within the Babylonian kingdom. God promised He would have them return to Jerusalem and Judea in seventy years. Of course, only the remnant returned (Jeremiah 29:1, 4–6, 10–11, 14).

The remnant that was faithful finally came to realize that the exile was a punishment for their unfaithfulness to the Almighty of Israel. Idolatry had been rampant among them, a thing repugnant to God, before their captivity. Seventy years later, when they returned, the exiles were a changed people. A transformation had taken place, no longer following leaders into idol worship.

Some Jews in Babylon continued to worship Jehovah. The elders worshipped together. The prophet Ezekiel wrote, "...as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me,..." (Ezekiel 8:1). The people of Babylon observed certain days as rest days (Sabbaths) and the Jews had no difficulty in keeping the Sabbath more faithfully than before. They freely worshipped. In place of the temple, the synagogue became the place of praise and worship.

Out of the captivity a body of men called scribes came into being. They meticulously made copies of the Torah (law), the writing, and the prophets. These men were well disciplined originally as disciples of priests and prophets. From this group came the scribe Ezra.

Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 bc. Succeeding monarchs could not keep the kingdom intact.

The empire was torn apart by rival civil war factions. Within a period of six years, there were four kings and two revolutions.

Meanwhile, the exiled Jews read the Prophetic scriptures. Jeremiah's words encouraged them. "And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. And I will bring upon the land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations. For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their hands" (Jeremiah 25:12–14).

The faithful remnant of Judah waited; they would soon return!

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# When God Calls

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus, Mount Olive College

(From a message delivered to the Women's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists at Pleasant Grove Church, Wayne County, May 31, 1999.)

The most profound experience in human life is to be called of God. In large measure the Bible is the story of how people responded to this call, people like:

- Abraham, whom God called to leave the civilized city of Haran and go to a country that was largely barren and undeveloped;
- Moses, who was quietly tending sheep in the desert near Mount Horeb when God called him to deliver his people from slavery in Egypt;
- Isaiah, who had gone to the Temple to worship when God called him to be his messenger to the kings as well as the people of Judah;
- Jeremiah, who was only a youth when God

called him to be a prophet during the time Judah would be conquered and carried into exile;

- Peter and Andrew, James and John, as they mended their nets by the Sea of Galilee;
- Saul of Tarsus, who was traveling from Jerusalem to Damascus to imprison Christians when the Lord called him to proclaim the very faith he was trying to destroy.

And the list could include many others whose life and work fill the pages of Holy Scripture. There is a common thread which runs through the experiences of these persons.

First, God gave them a *vision* of what He

Cont....

wanted them to do with their lives.

Second, they were called to a work which they felt was beyond their wisdom and strength — a mission which required sublime *faith*.

Third, each one had to decide upon his *commitment*, what priority he was willing to give to fulfill the vision he had been given.

Vision, faith, and commitment — these are still the experiences we have today when God calls us.

## Vision

*"Where there is no vision the people perish:..." (Proverbs 29:18).*

To be given a vision is to be made to see. From the Biblical point of view, a vision is something not normally seen by the human eye but revealed by God. The word translated "vision" in the above verse literally means "revelation." The vision given leading characters of the Bible was a personal revelation of God's purpose for their lives.

A vision from God is always to a mission that is bigger than we are. If the only work to which we were called was something we could do on our own, it would not be very much. Years ago when I told my paternal grandmother that I had been called into the Christian ministry, she quoted a verse from the Bible I have never forgotten: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31).

It was this feeling of awe, mingled with a sense of inadequacy, that overwhelmed the patriarchs and prophets. When God told Moses he was sending him to the king of Egypt to request the release of the Israelites, Moses was overwhelmed. After all, the reason he was in the wilderness was because he feared for his life if Pharaoh should find him. Moses understood the vision God had given him, but he felt totally inadequate: "...Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh... I am not eloquent,... I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue, ... O my Lord, send... whom thou wilt..." (Exodus 3:11, 4:10, 13) he pleaded.

In essence, God replied: "Moses, it

was for this purpose that I preserved your life when you were an infant. Furthermore, I provided for you to be reared as a member of Pharaoh's family so that you could be educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. Now, go! And I will be with you." Moses went, and the exodus from Egypt became the pivotal point in Hebrew history.

## Faith

*"...without faith it is impossible to please him: ... God" (Hebrews 11:6).*

After God gives us a vision, the next question is whether we have faith that he will enable us to fulfill it. It is only when life carries us out beyond ourselves — beyond our wisdom, beyond our strength and beyond our resources — that we learn the meaning of faith.

The Biblical meaning of faith is not just believing anything — it is believing in God. It is trusting God to do through us what it is impossible for us to do on our own. Faith is believing that with God's help the vision he gives us can become a reality.

Consider the experience of Abraham. At age seventy-five, God appears and directs him to leave his country and his kindred and go to a land unknown to him. Although he had no children, God tells Abraham that he has chosen him to be the father of a new nation through which all people on earth will be blessed (see Genesis 12:1-3).

Here we have one of the turning points in human history. Abraham gathers his family and possessions and begins the long journey to the land of Canaan. For the next fifteen years, he is a "sojourner," without a fixed residence or title to any land.

Fifteen years go by, and at age ninety God appears again to Abraham — this time to renew his promise. Abraham responds by saying, "Thou hast given me no seed:..." (Genesis 15:3). At this point, we come to one of the most profound scenes in the Bible. God takes Abraham outside and tells him to, "Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them, and he said unto him, So shall thy seed" (Genesis 15:5).

What follows is one of the high-water marks in human encounter with God:

"And he [Abraham] believed in the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15:6). The key word here is "believed," which could be translated, "Abraham had faith — he trusted the Lord." In this verse we have the concept of salvation and the doctrine of "Justification by Faith" — that we are made right with God by believing in him.

Here we also have the foundation of prayer, which is faith in God. In Matthew 8:13 Jesus says to the Roman centurion who had come to him for the healing of his son: "...Go thy way: and as thou hast believed so be it done unto thee...."

Have you ever wondered why we close our prayers with the word "amen?" One reason is symbolic — it means the prayer is ended. The other reason is substantive — "amen" is the Hebrew word translated "believed" in Genesis 15:6. Abram believed (amen) the Lord. When we end a prayer with "amen" we are affirming our faith — our trust — in God. We are saying, "I believe it will be so."

The foundation of the Christian faith is that God can be trusted.

## Commitment

*"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17).*

After visions and faith comes commitment — the price we have to pay to translate our vision into reality. Christian commitment is when we stake our all — our security, our reputation, our health, our future — on fulfilling the vision God has given us. It is burning the bridge behind us so that there is no retreat. To have a vision and faith means that we are willing for God to use us in whatever way necessary to fulfill his mission for our lives.

Let me speak now out of my experience as president of Mount Olive College. Recently, on the way home from a short vacation, I commented to my wife that I had been assigned the topic of "faith" for a sermon I was preparing for a state-wide church gathering. "I would like to know your thoughts on this subject," I said. Immediately she replied, "Tell them that faith without hard work the



College would have died."

We talked about the times when she was carrying my mother to Duke Hospital so that I could devote my time to the work of the College. In order not to leave home before getting our six children off to school, my wife would go for my mother the evening before her appointment and bring her to our home for the night. During these days, it was not uncommon for me to come home after everyone had gone to bed and leave before anyone else got up. At breakfast one morning, my mother asked, "Doesn't Burkette come home at night?"

On another occasion, a relative from out of state was coming to our home for her first visit, and on the way we were discussing the College. As we approached the campus, she asked, "How does one build a college?" After pondering her question for a moment, I replied, "Perhaps the real question is not 'how' but 'why?'"

Unless we have a "why" — a vision — we do not need a "how." During my forty years as president, I was sustained not by what the College was but by what I believed it could become. There was always a vision that transcended what we ourselves could do. It was a vision of what God could do upon two conditions: (1) that the College was His work rather than ours, and (2) that we were willing to commit our all to fulfilling that vision.

### **Conclusion**

In the Christian life, vision, faith, and commitment are inseparable. God gives us a vision of His purpose for our lives, and when we respond in faith and with commitment we find the road that leads to peace — absolute peace. The road is not always easy, but there is the assurance that we have the supreme Wisdom of the universe to guide us and the ultimate Power of the universe to strengthen us. "...His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:3).

## *Youth Convention* *AFC Christian Writing Essay*

# **Saved by Prayer**

**Fiction**

**by Colleen Roughton**

**AFC, Sound Side Free Will Baptist Church**

One day a young girl named Kalicity, who lived with her parents and her little sister, Lizzie, and her brother, Joshua, outside of Richmond, Virginia, asked her mother if they could go on a family vacation. Her mother, Mrs. Ryan, replied, "Maybe. Where would you like to go?"

Kalicity and her siblings got in a circle and quickly decided on Walt Disney World. Since Kalicity's mom worked only part time, and her dad was a fisherman for Mr. Delaney, she doubted they would be able to go. But since she had to go to town to run some errands anyway, she said that she would go down to the bank and see if they had enough money in their account to afford such a trip.

While Mrs. Ryan told Lizzie and Joshua to get ready to go to town, Kalicity decided to stay home and wait for her dad to call from his fishing job with Mr. Delaney in Columbia, North Carolina. He always called on Saturday afternoons around three o'clock.

Kalicity was listening to the radio when an important news flash beeped. The D.J. dramatically announced, "A purple Ford Contour has been in a serious crash with two eighteen wheelers on Jennifer Road! Both drivers of the eighteen wheelers have only minor cuts and scrapes, but two young children in the automobile are described as being critically injured, and are in route to Richmond Medical Emergency Services. The mother of the children is also being taken to the hospital for x-rays!"

Kalicity realized with horror that the D.J. was talking about her own mother and siblings. She knew what she had to do. Instead of waiting for her father to call, she called the fishery in North Carolina, and told Mr. Delaney that there was an emergency, and that she needed to talk to her dad. As soon as Mr. Ryan came on the phone, he said, "What is it, honey?"

Kalicity told him everything. He said he would be home in a few hours. "Call Grandma, and get to the hospital and I'll be there soon," he reassured her.

But before Kalicity called her grandmother, she got down on her knees and asked God to let her family live.

Grandma came quickly after Kalicity called, and together they drove to Richmond. When they got to the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital, a nurse summoned the doctor. The doctor came out and said that it looked pretty bad. Right there, Kalicity got on her knees again and prayed the exact same prayer to God as before. Suddenly, another doctor rushed out of the room and grabbed the first doctor by the hand. "Hurry!" he said. "It's the young boy!"

The doctors rushed away, leaving Kalicity and her grandmother to wait in fear and uncertainty. After several agonizing hours, the doctor came out again, and with a smile, asked Kalicity to go in and speak to her little brother. Joshua had just come out of the coma he had been in for the last six hours.

Lizzie was still in a coma, her bed beside Joshua's, and Kalicity and Grandma switched back and forth, sitting by each of the children, holding their hands and praying. Eventually, Kalicity looked up and saw her mother, bruised and bandaged, standing at the door — wanting to come in, but knowing that she couldn't because Kalicity and Grandma were there, and only two visitors were

Cont....

allowed at a time. Kalicity ran to the door, thankful to see her mother alive, and let Mrs. Ryan come in while she herself went out to pray. When her grandmother and mother came out a little while later, Lizzie was still in the coma. They all looked up when her dad, Mr. Ryan, ran out of the elevator and hugged them all. He immediately asked, "How are the kids? Are they all right? What's going on?"

Marisa tearfully replied, "Joshua's out of the coma, but Lizzie is still in a coma. They're both in really bad shape, Dad!"

"When can I see them? Am I allowed

to see them?" cried Mr. Ryan, desperate to see his children.

The whole family stayed at the hospital for two weeks, and during that time, Kalicity prayed at every opportunity. She got down on her knees and prayed to God, right in the hospital. She didn't care if people made fun of her, because she had faith that God would save her little sister and take care of Joshua.

Finally, on the fourteenth day, Kalicity's prayers were answered when Lizzie woke up. When the doctors came out with the great news, Kalicity got on her knees once again and

thanked the Lord for answering her prayers. It was another week after Lizzie woke up before she and Joshua were released from the hospital and were at last able to go home.

Their first night home, Mr. and Mrs. Ryan got on their knees for the first time in a long time, and prayed to God. They thanked Him for letting Lizzie and Joshua live, and for giving them such a wonderful and faithful daughter as Kalicity — for Kalicity's shining example of faith had inspired her parents into a closer walk with God.

## The "Seven Signs" of the Apocalypse

by Kristina Tyson

AFC — Marlboro Original Free Will Baptist Church

The book of Revelation was written to prepare for the last intervention of God in human affairs. Revelation is called an apocalyptic writing. These are mainly Jewish and Christian writings written between 200BC and AD100.

My mom and I were watching television one weekend and a movie came on called "The Apocalypse." We started watching it and I had questions. To begin with I did not know what an apocalypse was. My mom tried to explain this to me. An apocalyptic writing describes or tells of things that have not happened yet, but will. We opened the Bible and turned to the book of Revelation and discussed the movie and the Scriptures as the movie continued.

When the movie was over, I was still curious so we did a little more research. I soon discovered that the book of Revelation is full of symbolic writing, it uses animals and numbers. The movie we watched was basically about the seven signs of the end of the world as we know it. In the Scripture there is a book of seven seals. This book is opened by the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David. The seven seals are broken one by one revealing the events that will happen:

- A) 1st Seal — A white horse materialized and he that sat on the horse went forth to conquer.
- B) 2nd Seal — A red horse, he that sat on the horse took peace from the earth that they should kill one another.
- C) 3rd Seal — A black horse, he that sat there on had a pair of balances in his hand. A voice said three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.
- D) 4th Seal — A pale horse, he that sat on him was called Death and Hell followed him. Power was given to him over the fourth part of the earth, to

kill with sword, and with hunger, with death and beasts of the earth.

- E) 5th Seal — Under an altar were seen the souls, those that were slain for the word of God and for the testimony they held.
- F) 6th Seal — There was a great earthquake, the sun became black and the moon became as blood. The stars of heaven fell from earth, every mountain and island were moved out of their places.
- G) 7th Seal — There was silence in heaven and then...

I did not finish what the Scripture says about the 7th seal on purpose but supposedly when these signs have come true, the world we know will no longer exist. If you do not know Christ as your Saviour or any of what is written in this paper or want to know more, as I do...get your Bible and read, pray or talk to someone you know who does have a personal relationship with God. Do not wait too long, tomorrow may be too late.

### Acknowledgment

Thank you to my mom for taking the time to talk and explain things to me and for helping me with my research.

Thank you to my friend, Emily Blalock, for helping me to gather some of the research data.

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# CAMP VANDEMERE

OUR FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTER

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

Have you ever wanted to just get away, find a quiet place and just relax? Do you dream of setting up a hammock in some nice cool spot, just lying around and taking a nap? As you begin to think about doing this, you wonder — where could I find such a place, enjoy myself, and it not cost me a fortune. Most places that meet these qualifications during the summer usually have a high cost attached to them.

Let me tell you of a place that meets all the above criteria, and at the same time will fit in most any budget. This place is Camp Vandemere, located in the eastern part of our state, just 25 miles east of New Bern. It's probably within a couple hours drive of most of our Free Will Baptist people. Camp Vandemere is located on the beautiful Bay River in Pamlico County. We have available a family sleeping lodge with each room designed to sleep six people. The cost is only \$25.00 per night. The scenery is great, the atmosphere is wonderful, and the fishing is usually pretty good. We have two piers available for your use while you stay with us. One is just right for a family to take their lounge chairs out and just relax and enjoy the beauty that God has richly blessed us with. The other pier extends out about eighty feet with a large platform at the end that is just right for a group to have devotions, or for a group to enjoy fishing or crabbing.

There is a swimming pool that you can use, play ground equipment, as well as a volley ball court. It is a great place for a family getaway, a Sunday school group, or for a church to enjoy an outing. We have a dormitory that will sleep about eighty people, as well as a full kitchen that is equipped to handle large groups for a week or weekend. All buildings are air-conditioned and have heat for the fall and winter months. We have a full-

time manager living on the campus making the camp more accessible than ever before.

I would like to thank Spring Hope Church, near New Bern, for the fundraiser they recently had for the camp. This is the home church of our manager team and we appreciate their support. Their church also has a whole week of camp scheduled under the direction of Mrs. Eva Clark, and is usually one of our larger weeks. Mark and Sandie are working very hard to provide more activity for our youth, and especially for our teenagers.

We are just about half way through the camping season and the Lord has been blessing each week of camp. There have been times of fun and games as well as field trips, and times of spiritual renewal. The other night I was at the camp in one of the worship services and the speaker asked for testimonies. I was amazed as well as pleased with the number of young people who stood up and gave their testimony for the Lord. This is what camp is all about, helping our young people grow in their walk with the Lord.

A couple of weeks ago a group of men from a church in New Bern came down for a weekend retreat and had a great time. They enjoyed it so much that they immediately began to make plans to bring a group of their youth down for a week of camp. The Lord is working through Camp Vandemere and all this is possible because of your generous support.

If you haven't been to Camp Vandemere recently, we invite you to come and see the improvements that have been made. I hear all the time from those who come to the camp for the first time, "I didn't know that we



"O Send out thy light and thy truth."  
Psalm 43:3

had such a fine facility as this so close to us." This makes my heart glad and at the same time a little sad. We try very hard to get the word out about the camp. It belongs to our Lord and we want his children to be able to use it and receive His blessings while at the camp. But, I am at a loss as to how to get the word out to our Free Will Baptist people. Perhaps you can help me; if you have been to the camp, please tell someone about it. If you haven't been, let me encourage you to come and see it first hand.

I would like to express our thanks to those who have worked for and with us this year at the camp. Our staff has worked hard and our directors have put their whole selves into directing their week of camp. Because of their dedication, we have seen souls saved, and others recommitted to Christ. Still others have been blessed and are walking closer to our Lord; thanks to those who have been faithful to the Lord and shared His love with them. Many seeds have been planted and are now waiting for someone to water and make them grow.

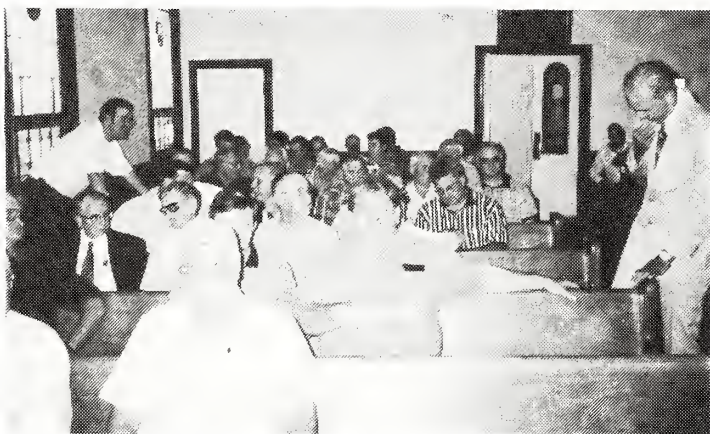
If you would like to find out more about the camp, you may call Sandie at the camp (252-745-3171), or just stop in for a visit. When you are sending your donations you may address them to Mrs. Judith Kennedy, Treasurer, 933 North NC 41, Pink Hill, NC 28572.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers, and thank you for your support.

# LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

## Central Conference Layman's League

The Central Conference Layman's League met June 7, 1999, at the Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC. The meeting was hosted by Little Creek, Saint's Delight, and Ormondsville Churches. The meeting began with a meal and then the worship service and business meeting which began at 7:45 PM. Attendance was good, as indicated by the picture below as the men gathered for the service.



## Dates to Remember

- August 14 "Singin' By The River" all day Singspiration at Camp Vandemere, lasting from 9:00 AM until. If you want to hear the largest group of spiritual singers ever brought together at one place, then it's worth the drive.
- August 16 Eastern Layman's League Conference will be held at Camp Vandemere, 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business.
- September 13 Central Conference Layman's League, 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business. Hosted by Rose of Sharon and Williamston First FWB Churches. Being held at Williamston First, 102 Spruce Street, Williamston, NC.
- October 7 Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC.
- November 5 State Layman's League Conference, 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business. Hosted by Friendship FWB Church, Farmville, NC.
- November 15 Eastern Conference Layman's League, New Haven FWB Church, Asken, NC. 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business.

## Camp Vandemere Singing by the River

Saturday, August 14, 1999  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Spend a wonderful, relaxing day on the shores of the Bay River enjoying the tranquility of nature and the inspiring sounds of gospel music provided by these Original Free Will Baptist Groups:

The Four In Christ Quartet  
The Second Edition Quartet  
Covenant  
Trinity

The Smith Family  
(from Powhatan FWB Church, Clayton)  
and

Servant's Heart  
(from Pleasant Grove FWB Church, Pikeville)

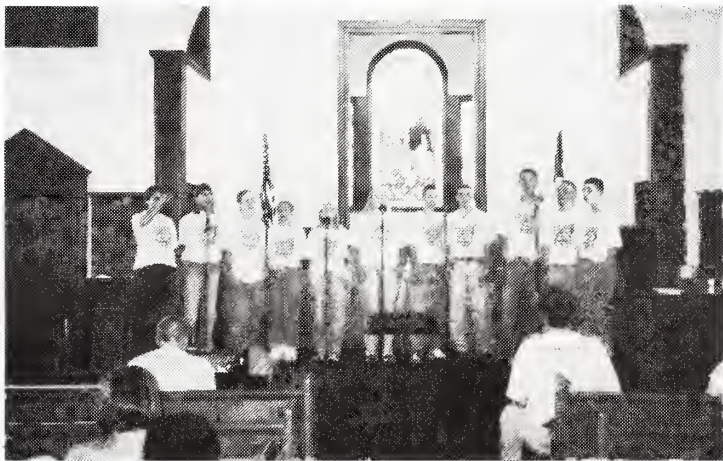
**ADMISSION IS FREE**  
an offering for  
Camp Vandemere will be received.  
Plenty of food and soft drinks  
will be available.  
Join us for a day of fun,  
feasting, fellowship, and great music.

At the  
1999 Camp Vandemere  
Singin' By The River



### Peace FWB Delivers Message

Grace — such a powerful word. Peace Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC, proved that with the visit of their group "Praise" on June 24. The energetic talents of these young adults are captivating. The staff and children were truly blessed. Thanks to Mr. Rusty Russell, the group "Praise," and Brian for their compassion and sharing of their faith.



Group "Praise" from Peace Free Will Baptist Church

### Softball Anyone?

On June 19, Faith Baptist Church of Zebulon visited our campus and challenged the residents with a game of softball. They later treated everyone to a hot dog lunch. We would like to say "thank you" to all the members who took time out of their busy schedule to show "His" children a day of fun and laughter.



Faith FWB Church, Four Oaks, NC, visited the Children's Home.



Mark Your  
Calendars!  
Friends of  
Children's Day  
November 20, 1999

### To Our Rescue

Mr. Roney Bunn, President, and his wife Jean, secretary of Woodman of the World, visited the Children's Home on May 28 to deliver a 25" TV donated by Lodge 1087, Wilson. A special thank you goes to this group for all they have done for our Home. Especially, thank you for caring. May God always be at your side.



Roney and Jean Bunn from Woodmen of the World Lodge 1087, Wilson.



## Children Baptized



On the evening of June 23, four young ladies were baptized in Memorial Chapel by the Rev. Lester Duncan. Many staff members were present to share in their time of blessing.

Imagine being 10 years old, 12 years old or even 16 years old, and having to make the decision to walk in front of a congregation full of children your same age or older that you continue to see regularly. But the feeling you have overpowers and your feet move toward the pulpit. As you take your steps, you can hear each person breathing or maybe even a snicker, even with music playing, but you continue on. What a feeling to accomplish your goal! Now imagine taking these steps with no family present.

The Children's Home staff becomes a family to many of these children. We continue to share their smiles, tears, and even anger, with the greatest thank you — Their hugs.

We will not give up.

We are very proud of these young ladies — Carolyn, Sandy, Amber, and Priscilla. Hopefully, their paths will continue on the right track and they will become even more strong in their faith. May God always be the center of their life. Imagine how they could help others.



## FOREIGN MISSIONS

### ANNUAL CONVENTION MISSIONS RALLY

The Annual Convention Missions Rally will be held on September 15, at 7:30 PM in College Hall. Please plan to attend and pray about the amount the Lord would have you, as an individual or a church, to give.

Thank you in advance for your generous response.

I hope all of you can attend; but if you cannot, you can mail your special offering to Board of Foreign Missions, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. You will still receive credit for the Rally offering.

Remember: You must earmark your check for Foreign Missions or place it in a special Foreign Missions envelope. These will be sent to every pastor and supplied at the Rally.

Harold Jones  
Director/Treasurer  
Board of Foreign Missions



## ***Urgent! Urgent! Urgent! Calling Your Attention!*** ***Act now to join a Foreign Missions Short-Term Team in 2000***

Now is the time to act if you want to join a Short-Term Team next year. Airline tickets for these teams must be negotiated in the fall, therefore, you must act NOW!

The dates are:

- April 1-16      Philippines (Orientation, February 28, 7:00 PM)
- June 17-27     Mexico (Orientation, April 29, 10:00 AM. This team is full. You will be put on a waiting list.)
- July 15-25      Mexico (Orientation, May 20, 10:00 AM. Only a few openings are left.)
- August 12-22   Mexico (Orientation, June 12, 7:00 PM)

An Orientation Session is required of all who join a Short-Term Team. This session is absolutely essential. We, therefore, are including the dates of the Orientation Sessions. Please mark this date on your calendar as your priority for that day.

Short-Term Team ministry is for all ages:

- Philippines — 18 years old and up
- Mexico — 13 years old and up

A life changing experience awaits you! So make your plans NOW! Call 252-746-4963 for information and an application. Join us in prayer for the 1999 teams to Mexico.

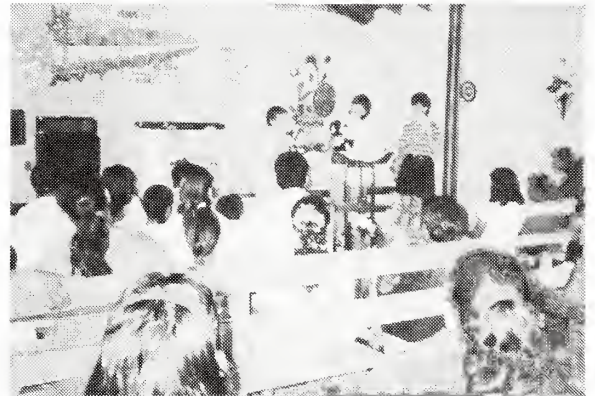
## ***Fruitful Ministry in Mexico***

On June 10, 1999, twenty-nine excited members of the June Short-Term Team departed Raleigh-Durham Airport for San Antonio, Texas. We rented two vans and drove down to Mexico. Our work was based in Piedras Negras, which is just across the border from Eagle Pass, Texas. We had an extremely fruitful ministry. Vacation Bible School was conducted for three days at the Jordan FWB Church and three days at the Lily of the Valley FWB Church. A Christian Fiesta was held on Friday afternoon. This was an exciting time for the children and a joy for our team to sponsor this. Bible studies were held for the women. They studied the life of Esther and one lesson was on Ruth. The women also enjoyed a time of handicraft.

The team built a parsonage at the El Salvador FWB Church. This team was highly skilled and very industrious. Construction began on Monday morning and by Tuesday afternoon all of the blocks had been laid. On Wednesday the corner post and support beams were poured. The roof was added on Thursday and the wiring was begun. The last two days the team completed the wiring, the trim work, and most of the sheet rock, plus some plastering. The second team (July 10-20) should easily finish the house so the Duenes Family will be able to move in.

The Rains Cross Roads Free Will Baptist Church provided the funds for this house. The Board of Foreign Missions, the Short-Term Team, and the Duenes family sincerely thank them for this great gift.

Joining a Short-Term Team gives each person an opportunity to give of themselves and help others in a life-changing experience that I personally recommend for everyone. If you are interested in joining a team for 2000, you need to act now! Soon all teams will be full. Call our office (252) 746-4963 for more information.



*Conducting Vacation Bible School for the children.*



*Bibles Studies with the women every afternoon.*





*Christian Fiesta enjoyed by all*



*Walls almost complete on Tuesday afternoon*



*Work team.*



*Building as of June 19*

## Please Help! Please Help!

I have asked over and over again for churches and individuals to please provide funds for the needs below. Some of them have been on this list for two years. Please ask yourself this question, "If any of these needs were for our local church, would we do it?" Surely we would, because the benefit would be personal and for ourselves. We have padded pews, paved parking lots, air conditioning, educational buildings, fellowship halls, porticos, the finest sound systems, and the list goes on and on, while others have practically nothing. The real test of giving is not when we give for our own comfort, benefit, and satisfaction, but when we give for the benefit and care of others.

**Surely we can help them!** I believe any church in our Convention could provide any of these projects, but the question is, **will we? Please help!**

**Call Today (252) 746-4963**

### BUILD ONE FOR THEM

<b>India</b>	\$18,000	Palia Kalan	church building
<b>Philippines</b>	\$15,000	Maranatha	church building
	8,500	Arado	church building
	17,000	Brookes Point	church building
	15,000	Calawag	church building
<b>TAKEN</b>	3,800	Iraray	complete church and parsonage
	1,584	Abo-Abo	complete church building
<b>TAKEN</b>	4,000	Mangingisda	lot and parsonage
	26,500	Roxas	lot and church building
<b>Mexico</b>	\$10,000	Saltillo	lots for new church
	6,000		additional funds needed/parsonage

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

<b>India</b>	\$8,433	Bareilly	residence for Field Director
	8,433	Bareilly	residence for English Pastor
	14,854	Bareilly	Convention Center
	7,000	Tilhar	school building
	7,000	Bilsi	school building
	7,000	Khaunsara	school building
<b>Nepal</b>	\$1,620	Dhangahra	complete school
<b>Philippines</b>	\$3,000	Pastors	2 motorcycles at \$1,500 each
<b>TAKEN</b>	500	Palawan Bible College	water pump
<b>Mexico</b>	\$1,200	Morelos	5 houses at \$1,200 each/campsite/repairs will be needed at additional cost
	1,500	Lily of the Valley	lot for church expansion
	2,700	Prince of Peace	lot for church expansion
	2,900	Jordan	lot for church expansion
<b>Bulgaria</b>	\$1,000		up-grade computer

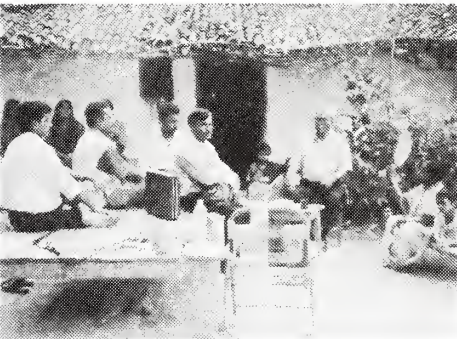
**\*\*Build One For Them and Special Projects are above budget needs.**



# *News Letters from India and Nepal*

*submitted by Dr. E.M. Lall*

A delegation from the larger State of Bihar, came to meet with us at Bareilly in early April, 1999. They were from various indigenous church denominations. Their woe and cry was that their missions, which were sponsoring church work viz Anglican, British Baptist Church of Christ, and the Union Baptist Church of England have long before abandoned the work and they are left without leadership. They have their own church buildings with land appurtenant to it, the school buildings and large cemeteries. They are managing their churches, schools and the graveyards. However, they desire to merge with our churches in the interest of good church leadership under the umbrella of our church denomination.



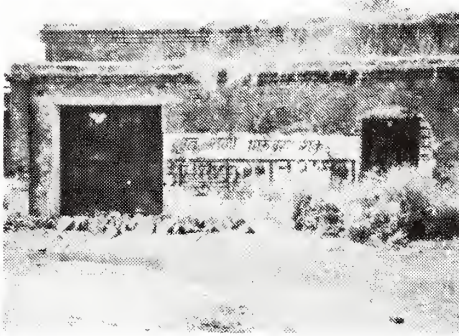
*Dr. Lall visits Fatehpur church in Bihar.*

I had the privilege of visiting these congregations with the Rev. Vijay Dutt of Bareilly and the Rev. Sunil C. Lal of Agra from May 24-29, 1999. We visited these congregations though it was very, very hot. The temperature was 48.6 degrees Celsius. Having seen and visualized the situation closely at the spot, we came to a conclusion that we should adopt these congregations as they will themselves manage their financial liabilities except that we will give them leadership and some help at times. If we do so, three Free Will Baptist ministers will have to be supplied at Gaya, Fathepur, and Daltonganj. We are already working in this State at Rasen, Buxer with our minister the Rev. D.K. Wilson. Our

Director-Treasurer, the Rev. Harold Jones is likely to visit India and Nepal in the month of October-November 1999, and we would like him to visit these places for final decision.

The month of June is set apart for mass evangelism by our church denomination in India and Nepal. Though the month of June is full of prime heat, we undertake evangelism campaigns as it is also the month of summer vacation when people relax and respond to the Word of God.

I recently visited some places in the district of Baduan, as our ministers are in the exchange program of evangelism and found the work being done with commitment and dedication. At two places at Gudhni and Bisauli in the district of Budaun, the State Authorities, having a compassionate view, expressed their desire to give their properties to us for running our schools. These buildings will need some repairs and white-washing. In one of the buildings, we are already having our school at Gudhni. As I move around in the villages, talked to the people to know their feelings about the Christian work we do in the face of atrocities caused in the past, they said it was a shame on the part of the communal groups.



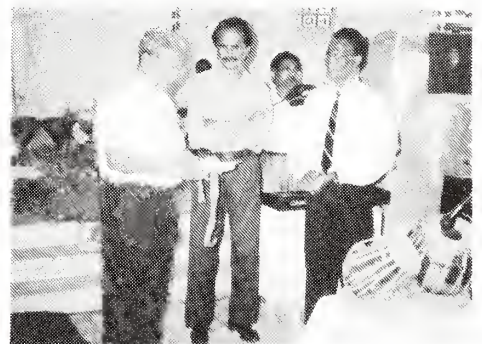
*Government building being given to us for school at Bisauli, District Budaun, U.P.*

There is an independent Baptist Congregation comprising of about 350 members at Khatema, District Nainital, U.P., where a lot of vandalism was caused in the recent past having an idol

installed in the church building. Some people of this church met us with a view to merge with us. They contribute funds for their needs and are self supporting. This church is under police protection so far. I would like the Rev. Jones, our Director-Treasurer, to visit here and advise about its merger. I visited this church on June 8 and would like them to join with us. This congregation also works in the other part of Nepal bordering their area.

The funds that we received in two installments quarterly gave us the opportunity of doing some much needed construction at Sirauli school and at Rudrapur and Nepal, while our schools are closed for summer vacation. The result of our schools was excellent this year also. Some repairs work and white-washing etc. is being done in the schools before they reopen on July 1, 1999. Our church congregations are active, integrated, and supporting the work considerably.

We had a unique program of evangelism through Music in our church on June 1, 1999. We locally support this project led by the Rev. Irfan Masih through his indigenous efforts.



*Evangelism through music inaugurated in our church in Bareilly, India.*

Our people in the council of ministers held on June 1, 1999, dedicated themselves for all our efforts in evangelistic campaigns already in the offering from June 3 to 25, 1999. Enough literature was bought from the Bible Society of India from Allahabad, U.P., for the purpose. I am praying for



great achievement and expecting no untoward incident while our people are away in fields. The local church at Bareilly has done marvellous work to change the sound system of the church. The entire church building and the boundary walls have been repainted and white-washed. The furniture, such as benches, chairs, tables, pulpits, etc. have been repainted. Different statues built at the church campus were also repainted after years. The church with its garden looks most beautiful and it may be pleasing to God. The church is under great blessings of the Lord.

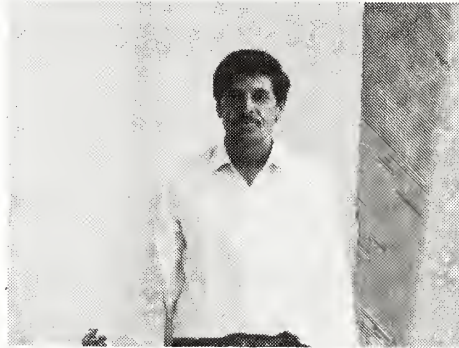


*Council of ministers and deacons preparing for an evangelistic campaign.*

The Rev. Rajesh Massey has been appointed to work in Nepal in place of the Rev. William Samuel, who has since resigned on his own. Rajesh is a good, literate person, working with us for the last fifteen years. The Rev. Santosh

Samuel has also been designated as Associate Minister for working at Nepal with Rev. Rajesh in addition to his Pastorate at Pallia. There is a great hunger for the Word of God in the country of Nepal these days, and we thought to involve our church more actively to save souls.

Our Board of Foreign Missions gave



*Rev. Santosh Samuel of Pallia, assistant in Nepal.*

us help, \$2,000, for erecting prayer rooms at Olani and Malakheti in Nepal. However, the funds did not suffice due to high cost of building material. Therefore, the remaining work of one church building at Olani, in Western Nepal, was completed recently. This small building will be used for school as well as the worship on Sundays.



*Rev. Rajesh Massey in charge of work in Nepal.*



*Church construction at Olani, Nepal.*



*Malakheti, Nepal, school children.*

## *Mount Olive College Coach Holds Camp for Private and Christian Schools*

The inaugural All Star Team Basketball Camp for Private and Christian Schools was held June 6-9 at College Hall with very positive results.

Teams representing Ravencroft Academy, Fayetteville Christian, Riverside Christian, Twin County Christian, Wayne Country Day and White Oak Christian participated in the event, which was run by Bill Clingan, Mount Olive College men's basketball coach and his staff. In all, some 50 campers and their coaches were involved in the camp.

Campers received instruction from the MOC coaching staff in the morning and enjoyed competition between the different teams in the afternoons and evenings. Dr. David Hines, Chair of the Department of Religion at MOC, served as keynote speaker for the camp, addressing the group on the subject of "Christianity in Athletics."

Coach Clingan said many of the players, coaches, and parents in attendance had never been on the MOC campus before, so the camp provided them with an introduction to the College. Clingan heard many comments concerning the friendliness of people on campus, as well as the food, the hospitality and the way the camp was handled. Based on those favorable reviews, he expected the camp to double in size next year.



## *It's the People and the Christian Values at MOC that make the Difference for Marci Rollins*

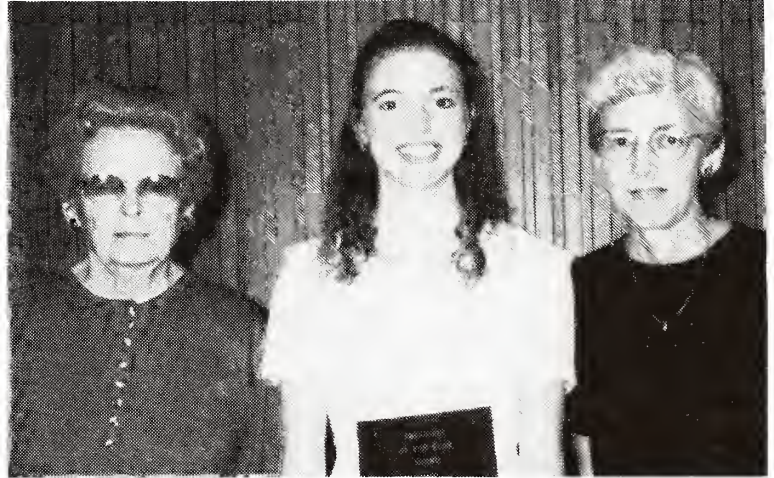
Mount Olive College was the natural choice for rising sophomore Marci Rollins. Marci, a member of Goldsboro First Free Will Baptist Church, always wanted to go to Mount Olive College because of its Christian values and the individual attention given to students. Her parents, Nelson and Deborah Rollins, were also pleased with Marci's decision. Although she lives on campus, her family lives only 30 minutes away in the town of Pikeville, giving Marci the opportunity to keep in close contact with her family and friends at home.

When asked what she enjoys most about the College, Marci quickly said, "The people." "Professors, even the ones I've never had, know me by name and speak to me whenever they see me. They truly care," she added. In particular, Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations, has really meant a lot to Marci since entering college. "Mrs. Riley has been a real inspiration to me. She is one of my closest friends, confidants, and mentors. She has helped me become involved in many activities. I even went with her to visit FWB churches in Georgia. That was one of the best experiences of my freshman year," Marci recalled. "Mrs. Riley helps me keep in contact with my roots and helps me build new ones. She's a very special person and has helped me in more ways than she could ever imagine," she continued.

Besides her professors, Marci is also very appreciative of the friends she's made while at MOC. "With the many Christian organizations on campus... I've been able to grow closer to God and meet new Christian friends," Marci noted. Marci is involved in several on-campus organizations including: Fellowship of Christian Students, Ministry Effectiveness Team, Student Theological Fellowship, Free Will Baptist Student Fellowship, the English Society and the Undergraduate Alumni Association. In May, Marci was named Freshman of the Year at the College's Annual Awards Day Ceremony held in Rodgers Chapel. Off-campus she teaches Sunday school, sings in the choir, and directs the drama team at her church. She also works at the Swop Shop in Goldsboro as the Assistant Jeweler.

Double majoring in English Communications and Religion, Marci plans to pursue a career in Christian Journalism after graduation. "MOC

is one of the best things that has ever happened to me and I don't like thinking about ever having to leave," she concluded.



*Marci Rollins, holding her Freshman of the Year Plaque, proudly stands between her grandmother, Pauline Stokes and her mother, Deborah Rollins.*

## *Mount Olive College Assistant Director of Planned Giving*

Mount Olive College invites applications for the newly created position of Assistant Director of Planned Giving.

The assistant will work with the director in all phases of planned giving including estate planning, charitable trusts, annuities, and major gifts. With the long-term objective of helping to build a large endowment, the college seeks an applicant with the potential for professional and personal growth in resource development.

The applicant must be able to relate and effectively communicate, both orally and in writing, with donors of all educational, social and cultural levels. A disciplined work ethic and competence in relevant technology are essential.

Mount Olive is a private church-related college rooted in the liberal arts tradition and nurtured by the Christian faith. The successful candidate will be one who gives evidence of commitment to the mission of the College.

Evaluation of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. A letter of application with resume should be sent to: Office of Planned Giving, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365.



## Mark Your Calendars for MOC Homecoming Weekend

Plans are already underway for Mount Olive College's 1999 Homecoming Weekend scheduled for November 19-21. This year's theme will be "Keeping the Memories Alive." Reunions will be held on Saturday, November 20 for the classes of 59, 64, 69, 74, 79, 84, 89, and 94. Reunions will also be held for MOD and CJP, as well as other reunions which will be announced at a later date. The Alumni Cross Walk will also be dedicated on Saturday afternoon. The Annual Pickle Classic Basketball Tournament will be held Friday and Saturday nights. Other planned events include a variety of student entertainment, alumni awards, Sunday morning worship service and the annual alumni golf tournament.

Nominations are currently being accepted for alumni awards (see Mount Olive College's web site at [www.mountolivecollege.edu](http://www.mountolivecollege.edu) for more information). Volunteers are needed and welcomed to help with MOC Alumni Weekend, to participate contact Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations at 919-658-2502 ext. 3009.



*Show Your MOC Pride — Assistant Director of Admissions, Matt Green, and Director of Alumni Relations, Dianne Riley, show off two of the Alumni shirts through the Office of Alumni Affairs. To order your shirt contact Dianne at 919-658-2502 ext. 3009.*

## Planning Sessions Scheduled for Mount Olive College Dinners

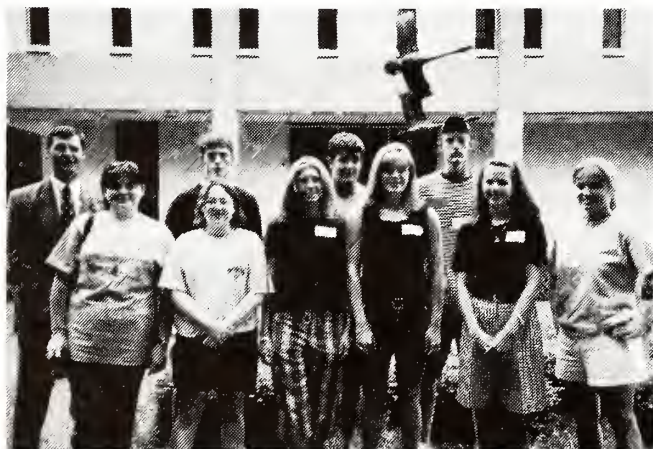
Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Coordinator for the annual College dinners, has announced that planning sessions for the 1999 College dinners will begin in August. The pastor, local chairperson of each church, and any other interested person is encouraged to attend the planning session in their county. At these meetings information on the College will be provided for volunteers and final plans for the dinners will be made.

This year, churches in the Pee Dee Association will have their first College dinner, making a total of 18 county-wide dinners held this fall throughout eastern North Carolina. This unrestricted gift support from Free Will Baptists helps the College expand its service to the church, develop academic programs, and provide scholarships.

## Freshman Advising Day at MOC

Nine Free Will Baptist students recently attended Freshman Advising Day at Mount Olive College. The College's Freshman Advising Program is designed to assist new freshman in evaluating their educational plans. Incoming students have the opportunity to learn about academic policies, student services, religious life on campus, as well as meet future classmates and tour the campus.

According to Linda Greenwood, Director of Advisement and Career Development and coordinator of the event, "The advising process helps students identify and clarify life goals, develop a realistic and successful educational program, and plan for careers." Ms. Greenwood also notes that the program is very beneficial to parents as well. "We include a program especially for the parents, to help them adjust to the changes in their family network when their son or daughter goes away to college," she adds. The parents' program includes an overview of academic life, student services, residence life, financial assistance, insurance, and some good common sense advice.



*Pictured back row (l-r): Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions and member of Rains Crossroads; Dallas Sutton, LaGrange; Zac Singleton, Beulaville; and Michael Ford, Wooten's Chapel. Front row: Sarah Crumpler, Sarecta; Amy Lanier, Sarecta; Tammie Chambers, Pearsall Chapel; Amanda Hogg, Wooten's Chapel; Nichole Smith, Christian Chapel; and Cristi Ferrell, Wooten's Chapel.*



## FALL EVENTS

Sunday, August 22, 1999

Residence halls open for freshman

Tuesday, August 24, 1999

Residence halls open for returning and transferring students

Wednesday, August 25, 1999

Classes begin

Tuesday, August 31, 1999

Fall Convocation, 11:00 AM

Residence hall and  
scholarship openings still available!  
Call Admissions Office for more information  
1-800-653-0854

*Friends and Alumni*

*are invited to*

*a retirement banquet in*

*honor of*

*Gary Fenton Barefoot*

*for thirty-four years as*

*Director of Library Services*

*(1965-1999)*

*Saturday, September 18, 1999*

*7:00 PM*

*Lois K. Murphy*

*Regional Center*

*Mount Olive College*

The cost of the buffet meal and gift will be \$12.50.

Reservations required by September 4, 1999

Contact Karen Van Norman,

Mount Olive College

634 Henderson Street,

Mount Olive, NC 28365

919-658-7167

## "First Things"

Several things have taken place this year that will make the title of this little article significant. I would like to report on some additions and events to show you what I mean.

For many years now Arlinda and I have wanted to do something to the walls of the kitchen at Cragmont. The use of degreaser over the years to clean the walls had left its mark of deterioration. In some places the finish was actually coming off. Other areas had faded or turned dingy yellow. Something needed to be done. One day while discussing the matter with our maintenance man, James Mason, he told me that he had quite a lot of experience in ceramic tile and even owned the tools needed to do the work. So now the kitchen sports a shine that can be matched only by the stainless steel on the hood and stove when it is well cleaned. Ceramic tile at Cragmont — that's a first.

For many years I have wanted to landscape the campfire area so that it would seat more people. Several years ago two sets of bleachers were placed there, but still there would not be room enough for all the kids in some of the bigger camp weeks. This year landscaping was done and rustic benches formed a horseshoe shape providing seating for 215 people around the campfire. This is a great improvement over the bleachers. You need to come and see for yourself. A small outdoor theater — that's a first at Cragmont.

For a couple of years now a golf cart has been on my wish list. In my mind some church or a group of churches would take up the task of helping to provide us with a golf cart. It would come in so handy taking towels and linens to the outer buildings. The maintenance crew would be greatly helped when trying to take tools to an outer building for repairs. And if you have done maintenance, you know how easy it is to forget that special tool that is needed to complete the job. There are times that the cart would come in handy to transport a person from the motel or dorm to the kitchen or main building. The new golf cart arrived just in time to start out our summer. A Sunday school class in one of our churches raised the money — purchased a new golf cart and delivered it to us just before the June Women's Conference. It is a great tool to have on campus. A new golf cart at Cragmont — that's a first.

Last year the Cragmont Board of Directors asked the Ministerial Association to consider moving the Minister's Conference out of the summer allowing another youth conference to be started. They agreed. This year for the first time the "Cragmont Youth Conference" with 134 in attendance made their maiden voyage to our campus. The week was lead by Bryant Hines and Craig Simmons and was a tremendous success. Eighteen young people made professions of faith while attending the conference. The Ministers of the Ministerial Association should be proud.

Cont....

# August

Prayer

Things

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>August Woman's</b>			
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Foreign Missions Board Meeting	<b>11</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Eastern Layman's League Conference, Camp Vandemere 7:00 PM Meal, 7:45 PM Business	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Mexico Short-Term</b>			
<b>22</b> Mount Olive College Residence Halls open for freshman	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Mount Olive College Residence Halls open for returning and transfer students	<b>25</b> Mo
<b>Mexico Short-Term Team • August 14-24</b>			
<b>29</b> Mount Olive College Scholarship Day	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Mount Olive College Fall Convocation 11:00 AM	<b>1</b>

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES



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remember \_\_\_\_\_

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	THU	FRI	SAT
	5	6	7
<b>Conference at Cragmont • August 2–7</b>			
	12	13	14 Layman's League Singin' by the River Camp Vandemere, 9:00 AM
<b>Mexico Short...</b>			
	19	20	21
<b>...n • August 14–24</b>			
ive College asses begin	26	27	28
	2	2	1

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR



*"First Things", Cont....*

A week at Cragmont — that's not a first. However, it is a first for "Cragmont Youth Conference."

I am hesitant to report on the last item because it is personal and difficult to find the words so that it impacts you the reader in the same way it did me. During Cragmont Youth Conference one of the counselors took the microphone and told how the ministry of Cragmont had impacted his life. Below I have paraphrased the content of what he said to the group. My memory of specific times he referred to may not be totally accurate, but close enough to understand the story.

"Approximately 30 years ago I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour here at Cragmont. Around 18 years ago I met my best friend here at Cragmont as we worked as counselors during a week of camp. Some ten years ago I was introduced to the woman who is now my wife while working as counselors during a week of camp. Tonight my son has made a profession of faith during this worship service at the first Cragmont Youth Conference."

Structural and organizational "firsts" have come this

summer but the "first" that affects and alters lives is the lifeblood (purpose/goal) of this place. The previous statement that describes the impact Cragmont has on a life is just one of many tales of very special "Cragmont Firsts."



*The New Cragmont Youth Conference*



*New golf cart*



*The New Cragmont Youth Conference*



*Camp fire*



*The New Cragmont Youth Conference*



# People & Events

## Happenings Throughout the Denomination



### Life Award

## Woman's Auxiliary of Original Free Will Baptists — by Becky Jo Sumner

May 13, 1999



Bob and Jean Ackiss

The woman we honor today is truly an example of the standards of the Free Will Baptist Woman's Auxiliary. She is clothed in the royal blue of the child of the King of kings. She has repeatedly taught me the amazing horizons which we as Christians possess under God's directions — as limitless as the Carolina blue sky. She has by words and deeds shown me the genuine quality of the gospel message Christians are charged to present to the world, a message of more value than silver. She has lived daily the auxiliary watchword and has shown those around that we "can do all things through Christ." We honor one who is in the service of the King.

She has many titles but her most prized is "Christian." She tells of gently coming to the Saviour when she was 12 years old. As she tells it, it was a Sunday afternoon at the close of a revival service at Juniper Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church. The minister, the Rev. S. A. Smith, asked her one evening at the close of the

service if she was saved. That was her realization that God was dealing with her. She did not go forward during the revival but she talked with her mother. Her mother told Rev. Smith and he gave an invitation at the baptismal service. So she came to her Saviour and was baptized in the Neuse River at Bridgeton near the railroad tracks.

I think somewhere not too far down the list, she prized her heritage as a Free Will Baptist. On her job application she stated, "I believe Mount Olive College will be more rewarding and offer experiences I can not receive at my present employment." I am sure in her wildest imaginings she never realized how true those words would become. She speaks of God's plans for her at Mount Olive College, of seeing His hand in a marvelous way in every stage of her life.

To me she is a friend, which seems so unbelievable because when I first meet her I was in awe of her and her position. To these around me she is "Miss Jean." The Life Award is given this thirteenth day of May to the daughter of Julia and Dave Fillingame; the sister of David Lee, Marie, Lois, Joyce, Sylbil, and Irene; the wife of Bob Ackiss; a Sunday school teacher at Spring Hill Church; a graduate of Mount Olive College; the past vice-president and present field secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention; the secretary to Dr. Burkette Raper, starting in 1965; the director of Church Support at Mount Olive College; and a bunch of other stuff I've run out of time for... Ms. Jean Ackiss.

In her own words she says of her life. "I don't feel that I have done outstanding things. Just tried to be what God has called me to do.

Everybody is not called to do the same thing. But we are called to be faithful to what our calling is. It isn't easy, but I try to listen to the voice of God (in my own spirit) and be obedient to that voice."

Jean Ackiss has certainly lived her life in fulfillment of that goal.

The officers of the Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists participated in this Life Award for Mrs. Ackiss. The officers are: President Brandon Jenkins, Vice-President Clair Taylor, Recording Secretary Kasey Briton, Treasurer Kristen Carroll, and Corresponding Secretary Scott Satterfield.

Their expressions are summarized from the writing, "To a Friend" (author unknown), as follows:

"We love you not only for what you are, but for what we are when I am with you" (Kristen).

"We love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of us" (Clair).

"We love you for the parts of us that you bring out" (Scott).

"We love you for putting your hand into our heaped up hearts and passing over all the foolish and frivolous and weak things that you can't help dimly seeing there, and for drawing out into the light all the beautiful radiant belongings that no one else had looked quite enough to see" (Kasey).

"We love you because you are helping us to make of the timber of our lives not a tavern, but a temple, and of the words of our every day not a reproach, but a song" (Brandon).

"You have done it by yourself" (Kristen).

Clair Taylor then sang, "No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus."

## People & Events

### *Smith's New Home Member Delivers Salutatory Address*

*submitted by Rev. Walter Sutton, Jr.*

*Pastor, Smith's New Home Free Will Baptist Church*

Matthew Scott Tyndall, of Smith's New Home Church, Deep Run, NC, was selected as salutatorian at South Lenoir High School. Scott gave his salutatory address at commencement on May 25, 1999, at South Lenoir's Munn Gymnasium in Deep Run. Scott graduated as a member of the National Honor Society and a North Carolina Scholar. He plans to study horticulture, landscaping and small business administration in the fall. Scott is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Muriel Tyndall of Deep Run. The following is his salutatory address:

Long ago David Everett wrote a poem that describes my present situation:

"You'd scarce expect one of my age  
To speak in public on the stage;  
And if I chance to fall below  
Demosthenes or Cicero,  
Don't view me with a critic's eye,  
But pass my imperfections by.  
Large streams from little fountains  
flow,  
Tall oaks from little acorns grow."

Our minds are like the mighty oak tree. Oaks are impressive when fully grown, but they take many years to achieve maturity. The oak tree starts out as a little acorn. You may look at an acorn and think, how can this little seed grow into this mighty tree? It can grow because it is cared for. The acorn must have everything it needs to reach impressive heights. If the seed gets the proper nourishment and requirements, it will sprout.

In kindergarten, we began to sprout and we were provided with a beginning foundation of nourishment to start the development of a root system that would become our foundation of learning. We were placed in good solid ground, and we began to grow. Our minds firmly rooted themselves in knowledge and survived many different seasons. Just as the oak tree endures many seasons and challenges, we were

faced with our own through the past 13 years.

Saplings are the second stage of growth. Saplings bend and move with the breeze, but they stay firmly planted. They show substantial growth, but have plenty more to go. In middle school, our minds were tested on a regular basis. We began to question ourselves and others on some of the basic principles of life. But like the mighty oak tree, we came out stronger than ever. We had been planted in good soil from the beginning and like the sapling tree, we had to learn to bend and accept a new place in life.

The oak trees' third stage of growth is the young timber stage. At this stage it will attain its full height. Presently, we are like the timber-stage oak, most of us have reached mature height, but we still have knowledge to store. For the past four years, we had to do the work and show our teachers we were doing our best. Everyday our minds grew in knowledge and strength. At present, we have mastered all that South Lenoir High School has to offer and now it is time for us to move into still another phase of growth.

Mature-timber stage is the final stage of growth for the oak tree. In many ways our graduation completes the trunk of our oak tree. We may not grow much more in height, but there are still many areas of growth left for us to discover. Some of us will be off to college, while others will be stepping out into the real world of work. But we can handle it. We have been nurtured to be ready for anything. Each branch on our tree should be an accomplishment, with each branch basing itself on previous deeds. The branches are separate, but all are connected in the end. They are part of one being.

As we leave here tonight, each of us should ask ourselves, "are my branches strong enough? Have I really reached the mature-timber stage or does part of me want to go back and complete growth in the young timber stage?"



*Matthew Scott Tyndall*

Please remember our growing process does not end here. Each day adds to the oak tree, just as each day will add new experiences for us. We, like the oak tree, may show fewer signs of growth, but we both are still growing. It will take years for our oak trees to reach maturity, or harvest time, just as our harvest time is still many years away. Oak trees are the masters of the woods. Nothing can rival them in durability and strength. But when they are old, they still need attention. They need good conditions to continue to thrive as we do. If we are to continue to thrive we must be life-long learners. Books are the fertilizer and nourishment of the mind. Books offer nutrients we will not find anywhere else, the nutrients which are essential to proper growth. Our oaks will get old, but they won't dim in glory. They will tell a story of endurance and accomplishments. They will show that no matter what the odds are, they can be overcome. Oaks are the wise men of trees. We, like them, must also be wise if we are to survive and prosper.

There may be fewer than a hundred of us in our forest, but at least we have done it in style. I would like to congratulate the senior class of 1999 for a job well done. You deserve a lot of the credit. I would like to thank the teaching staff, because without them, none of us would be here. And a special thanks goes out to the parents for their encouragement and support. In closing, to the seniors, I have only one more comment. We made it!!! Thank you.



## *Albemarle Union Meeting Held at Mt. Zion Church*

by Veronica Jones Haskett

The Quarterly Meeting of the Albemarle Conference was held at Mount Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church, Roper, NC, on May 29, 1999. After a brief musical interlude by Lucy Jones and devotions by Lloyd Jones, a rising vote of thanks was given by the Rev. Bill Mobley to Mt. Zion for their hospitality.

Following the moderator's address, the Rev. Robert May noted that the number attending should be one of the largest turn-outs for the Union Meeting. He welcomed all the youth in attendance and expressed his hope and prayer that our Union Meeting will continue to grow by involving the younger people.

The roll call revealed that we had 13 churches represented and 11 ministers present. All the pews in the Sanctuary were full and we praise the Lord for the large attendance.

The offertory prayer was given by the Rev. Harold Swinson with the Rev. Paul Grubbs leading the altar prayer.

An excellent and inspiring program was presented by St. Pauls Church of Elizabeth City, NC.

The meeting voted to send a \$100.00 donation to the Children's Home. The Rev. H.P. Norman will be in charge of the morning service on August 28, 1999, in Plymouth, NC.

Reports from various committees within the Convention were made to the group.

Our Memorial Day Worship Service was opened in songs rendered by the Mt. Zion Youth Choir. The Rev. Billy Reynold's message was from Judges 19 concerning the importance of winning lost souls to Jesus and the prevalence of sin and Satan in today's society. He spoke on the last days, phony TV preachers, and the silent cries of the people in our society who need God and salvation. "We must take advantage of the windows of opportunity to witness to the lost," he declared. Benediction was given by the Rev. Bob Harbor.

Lunch was served in our new Fellowship Hall which is still under construction, but appropriately decorated for the Holiday.



*Taken during Union Meeting at Mt. Zion. It shows part of the people attending. At the front of the Sanctuary in white T-shirts are the youth from St. Pauls in Elizabeth City who presented the program.*

## *Pee Dee Minister Awarded Doctorate Degree*

On Saturday, May 29, 1999, the Rev. Thomas Edward Bryson, in a special commencement service held at Cypress Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, Whiteville, NC, was awarded a Doctorate of Theology from Andersonville Baptist Seminary, Camilla, Georgia. The degree was conferred by the Rev. F. Buddy Seay, M.Th.



*Dr. Thomas Edward Bryson, Jr.*

Other participants included: Grand Marshall, Dr. Bobby Carden, pastor

of White Oak Original Free Will Baptist Church; Marshalls: Peter Jeremiah, Sammy R. Jones, Sr., Frankie Reaves; Church Officers: Sammy R. Jones, Sr., Chairman of Deacons; Lois Simmons, Treasurer; Mildred Surles, Clerk; the Processional: Edward Egar and Mrs. Denise Richards; the Pledges: Dr. Bobby Carden; Alma Mater, Mrs. Mildred Surles; introduction of speakers, the Rev. Billy Ray Cribb; speakers: the Revs. Billy Hardee and William J. Godwin; special music, Mrs. Denise Edwards; Commencement speaker, the Rev. F. Buddy Seay; the Benediction, Dr. Wade Jernigan of Hillsdale FWB College. At the conclusion of the service, a reception was held in the fellowship building.

A letter from the President of Andersonville Baptist Seminary, Jimmy L. Hayes, Th.D, stated:

"It is my pleasure to commend to you Dr. Thomas Edward Bryson, Jr., during this graduation ceremony. In earning his Doctorate of Theology, Dr. Bryson maintained a 4.0 GPA by earning A's in all his classes.... I want all those present at Dr. Bryson's degree presentation to know that he has displayed nothing less than a Christ-like character in his relationship with Andersonville Baptist Seminary.... My prayers and congratulations I now extend to Dr. Bryson, Summa Cum Laude, as he is presented his Doctorate of Theology with honors."

### **Biographical Information**

Dr. Bryson was born March 9, 1953, to the late Rev. Thomas Edward Bryson, Sr. and Margaret Pate Bryson.

He was saved in 1968 at South Avenue Free Will Baptist Church in Lancaster, South Carolina during a fall revival with the late Rev. Mitchell Davis. Dr. Bryson's pastor was

Cont....



## People & Events

### *News from Howell Swamp*

*submitted by Karen Beamon*

"Let your light...Shine!" (Matthew 5:16). "Broadcasting His Light to the World" was the theme for Bible School at Howell Swamp Free Will Baptist Church, Walstonburg, NC. The annual Vacation Bible School was held June 6-10, 1999. This year's theme, "We Shine for Jesus," was enjoyed by an average attendance of 50-60 each night. Classes were held for all ages, under the direction of Karen Beamon and a host of wonderful teachers. During opening ceremonies, everyone met in the church sanctuary for the pledge to the American flag, the Christian flag, and the Bible. Each child had the opportunity to be involved in this ceremony throughout the week. The adult class enjoyed a variety of topics during the week by guest speakers from surrounding churches. The speakers included the Rev. Walt Tyndall, Spring Branch Church; Mrs. Mary Hellen Carraway, Marlboro Church, Farmville; Mr. Reed Kennedy, Marlboro Church; Mr. Dennis Horton, Howell Swamp Church; and the Rev. Tony Glass, Howell Swamp Church.

Bible school isn't the only thing happening at Howell Swamp since Pastor Tony Glass and wife Frankie joined this congregation. The Lord has been at work with several new members joining, two through baptism and four by transfer of letter. A special event is planned for the youth each month. June included a visit to Brithaven Nursing Home in Wilson. The residents enjoyed home-made strawberry ice cream and an afternoon of singing and clowns, one of which was the Pastor Tony Glass. On July 4, an afternoon of volleyball, horseshoes, the passing of "holy water," a wiener roast and a community banana split was enjoyed by all.



*The Rev. Tony Glass, pastor, enjoys a coke and hot dogs during the "kick off" wiener roast on Sunday night.*



*Wes and Drew Sowers and Brittany Horton assisted with opening ceremonies.*

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### **Pee Dee Minister Awarded Doctorate Degree, Cont....**

the Rev. Ansel Smith.

In the spring of 1969, he received the call of the Lord into the ministry. He preached and traveled with the Gospel Light Quartet for a number of years.

On October 19, 1975, he married the former Wanda Causey. They have two sons, Josh and Justin.

In 1978 he began his pastoral work, pastoring in North and South Carolina and holding many revivals, some in Kentucky and Georgia.

In 1979, he began his Christian Education, attending the Beaver Creek Bible Institute with an Associate of Theology. Also a Graduate from

Liberty Home Bible Institute. In 1995, he enrolled with the Carolina University, received a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies. He also holds a Masters of Arts in Ministry and graduated with a Master in Arts in Theology. He enrolled with Andersonville Baptist Seminary and graduated with his Doctoral of Theology.

#### **A Personal Word From Dr. Bryson**

I am thankful to the Lord Jesus most of all for all the many blessings He has bestowed upon me.

To my parents who reared me in a

good Christian home, I am thankful for a Dad who is very special to me. I would have loved to have him here with me tonight. He inspired me to fight the good fight of faith. To my Mother, for her many prayers and words of encouragement.

Also to my wife, Wanda, and my sons, Josh and Justin, for putting up with me all these years and loving me.

To my church family, thank you for being so understanding when I make mistakes. I love you. To my friends for making this night so very special. God bless you all.



## Free Will Baptists at Work

(Report from Powhatan)

submitted by Rita Otto Jones

On June 4, a Senior Awards Banquet was held at Clayton High School in Johnston County, NC. Free Will Baptists were well represented. The invocation was given by the Rev. Charlie Carroll. Around \$105,000 in scholarships from Mt. Olive College were presented to five young ladies by Dr. Barbara Kornegay. Brandon Carroll was recognized as a "Super" Senior, and recipient of the CHS Student Government Association Scholarship and N.C. Graduate Services Scholarship. Mary Whitney Dupree (Wooten's Chapel) received a Campbell University Presidential Scholarship. Jeremy Jones (Powhatan) received the C. Thelbert and Lorie L. Lancaster Family Scholarship from Johnston Community College and was the District and State level recipient of scholarships from the State Employee Association of N.C. All these young people will be good ambassadors at their respective colleges next fall.

On June 5, several women from Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church in Clayton attended a workshop at Mt. Olive College with Cape Fear District and State Woman's Auxiliary officers. Powhatan President, Sandra Peedin, along with other officers Diana Bass, Ginger Hill, Ann Narron, and Rita Jones, traveled to Mt. Olive to learn from and share ideas with the group. The key to successful auxiliaries seems to be good communication. Thank you to *The Free Will Baptist* for the good job you do in getting out the word about what's going on in each district and statewide.

On Sunday, June 6, a presentation was made by Vicky Bagley to the Rev. Jim Bogle and the church of an All Star Award-Bronze Level for 1999 from the American Cancer Society for money raised at the Relay for Life. Over \$264,000 had been raised by the County with Powhatan coming up with a little over \$7,000. Rev. Bogle thanked her and the church members for the hard work.

A few of the June birthdays were

Margaret Lee Blinson, 81; Inez West, 83; and J.C. Blinson, 87. Ginger Hill celebrated being 29 for another time!

On June 12, a BBQ fun-fundraiser was held, sponsored by the Layman's League. Jamie Coats headed up the planning and cooking, with help from many others. The work began on the Friday before and continued until the final uncooked chickens were sold later Saturday night. The gospel sing that was held from 6-9 was enjoyed as much as the BBQ chicken. All money raised will go toward the building fund.

The week of Jun 14-19 was Powhatan's week at Cragmont Assembly. Campers in the Powhatan group included Clay and Kelsey Coats, Nicole and Brooks Lee, Dustin Johnson, Shelby McLeod, Melissa Doyle, Shanna Jones, Ashley Perry, Cynthia Narron, Kristen and Summer Davis, Brittany Gordan, Lyndsay Carroll, Crystal Guy, Krystal McLeod, Nikki Jones, Dani Allen, and Counselor Faitha Crowe. They left excited and returned even more excited. Thank's to Bryant Hines for a great week of fellowship.

Fathers were honored on June 20. The Layman's League presented gifts to J.C. Blinson (oldest father present), Troy Parnell (youngest father present), and Allen Price (most children present).

As my daughter and I watched WRAL-TV news, near the end of June,

there was a story about a young, special Olympian who would be competing in basketball at Chapel Hill. We realized at the same time while we were watching the young man shooting hoops that it was Phillip Williamson of St. Mary's Grove Free Will Baptist Church. Nikki exclaimed, "Hey, I know him, that's Brian's brother!" Brian is the Youth President of the Cape Fear Conference. Congratulations to Phillip, the youngest member of the team, who participated in the once-in-a-lifetime event and his family and church who supported him.

Vacation Bible School finished up the month of June with a record number in attendance. Over 100 had perfect attendance for the week-long event. Director Wanda Benson and Teresa Barbour worked to make the children believe the theme: "We Shine For Jesus." You could see the glow in their shining faces as the week went along. Oh, if we all had their enthusiasm and faith!

In Memoriam:

Clifton Markham, veteran of World War II, went to be with the Lord on June 29, 1999. His last battle was with cancer and he fought a brave fight. Please remember his wife, Annie, and their family during this time.

### Annual Labor Day Sale and Bazaar

Saturday, September 4 and Monday, September 6

8:00 AM — 3:00 PM

Intersection of Hwy 39 and Hwy 231 (Emit)  
(Five miles south of Five-County Mudcat Stadium)

We will have our famous HOTDOGS for sale. \$1.50 buys a hotdog and a drink. There will also be lots of homemade pies, cakes, and goodies. An assortment of homemade crafts and canned goods will also be available. Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship.

Sponsored by:

Friendship Free Will Baptist Church Woman's Auxiliary  
Middlesex, NC

## People & Events

### *State Woman's Auxiliary of Original Free Will Baptists Executive Meeting*

On Saturday, June 5, 1999, the executive committee met at Mount Olive College with seventeen members present. Carolyn Jernigan, President, welcomed the group and expressed her thanks to each one for being there.

For our devotion, Carolyn read Colossian 3:23 "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." After the Scripture reading, she asked each of us to tell about a blessing that had been ours with which God was well pleased. This was followed by sentence prayers from each one in the group.

The minutes from the last meeting were read by Sandra Jones, secretary, and approved by the group. This was followed by reports from each officer: Corresponding Secretary, Mamie Dail; Treasurer/Life Membership, Nadine Crocker; Missions, Teresa Grubbs; Youth, Martha Parsons; Study Course, Deborah King; Benevolence, Clara Patrick; Field Secretary, Jean Ackiss.

New business items discussed included the offer for workshop for any district at the next executive meeting in January, 2000. Committees for next conventions were: Life Membership, Betty Lynch, Western, Chair Person; Carolyn Jernigan, Cape Fear; Edith McPherson, Pee Dee. Nominating: Joan Little, Central, Chair Person; Mamie Dail, Central; Deborah King, Western; Becky Jo Sumner, Albemarle; Angie Piner, Eastern.

The next state convention will be at Free Union Free Will Baptist Church at Pinetown, NC on Thursday, May 11, 2000.

The executive meeting was closed with prayer by Jean Ackiss.

After lunch, we had a workshop for the auxiliary officers from Cape Fear District. During the workshop, we talked about the responsibilities of each officer and shared strategies and resources that would help in performing these responsibilities and duties. The workshop adjourned with prayer.

### *Cragmont Woman's Conference June 7-12, 1999*

*by Mamie Dail*



Monday morning, June 7, at 7:15, we were waiting and ready to climb aboard the coach that would start us on a week filled with study, prayer, song, fellowship, fun, shopping, and good food. After several stops along the way to pick up other ladies that would be joining in the excitement, we stopped in Greensboro for lunch. (Some of the ladies got started on their shopping during the hour.) After 3:00 PM, we pulled up in front of those wide stone steps and that porch full of rocking chairs, with Arlinda and crew to meet us. This is always a very welcome sight.

Off the coach and into the chapel we go. Teresa Ball gave us our room assignments. After this, Teresa and May Pittman collected our dues, and we are off to our rooms to get settled in for the wonderful week. Our luggage was waiting for us. We took care of this and had some time to relax and catch up on what has happened since our last time together. We gathered at the dining hall at 6:00 PM for our first of many delicious meals for the week.

Monday evening at 7:00 PM, we gathered in the chapel for devotions and getting acquainted. Teresa read Psalm 121 which really gets us all in one accord. After the devotions, May Pittman (our new co-registrar director) welcomed the group and made the necessary announcements. After this, we got acquainted by playing a game with a crossword puzzle to make our names form the puzzle. This was fun and we got to meet everyone.

Every morning at 7:45, we started our day with a devotion by Evelyn Williams from the Black Jack Free Will Baptist Church. Tuesday morning she used 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 to talk about "God's Grace for troubled times." She reminded us that not only God's grace, but His love also, are free and undeserved by mankind.

Wednesday morning, she chose Proverbs 17:17 with "Friendship" as her topic. Her thoughts were that friends love at all times. Friendships are fragile, they improve happiness and abate misery by doubling our joy and dividing our sorrow.

Thursday James 3:16-18 was used to share "Struggles with Jealousy." Jealousy is nothing more than having conflict with God over what He is doing

Cont....



### *Cragmont Woman's Conference, Cont....*

in another person's life. It is best to focus on what He is doing in one's own life. Don't miss out on your blessings by focusing on what others have or are doing.

Friday, for "Forgiveness," she used 1 John 1:8-9. Forgiveness is to acknowledge our pain to God and to pray for the offender. This requires releasing grudges or retaliation, to love and wanting the best for them.

Saturday was "Love," from John 4:11. Love is not a feeling. It is a verb. Love is something you do. Love is not only an emotion we feel but also a decision we make.

After breakfast each morning at 8:00 and a few minutes to get ourselves in order, we had a "Sing Unto the Lord" time at 9:30 and again at 11:00. The singing was lead by Alma Dale Cox with Nina Grace Register at the piano. This always gets us ready for the Bible study that follows each sing-a-long.

The theme for our week was "The Seven Feasts of Israel." Leviticus 23:1-2, was our theme verses: "And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts."

Jackie Flowers from Little Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church was our inspirational speaker. Through much study, her travels and friends from "The Friends of Israel," she really brought these feasts to life for us. Each

day she placed the three main ingredients for each meal on the table and told what each represented. God established the Feast of Israel through His Word. Each feast of holy day was a memorial of God's dealings with His people Israel. They picture and foreshadow the person and work of the promised Messiah. Each feast or holy day gives us a picture of God's plan of redemption. These feasts are: Feast of Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of First Fruits, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Tabernacles. Our thanks go to Jackie for sharing this with us.

After lunch and until 6:00 o'clock each day was free time. Tuesday afternoon, part of the group went to Bon Worth and Black Mountain to shop or browse. Wednesday afternoon was the big trip to Pigeon Forge, with shopping at the Red Roof Shopping Mall. From there the group went to one of the newest theaters in Pigeon Forge, Southern Nights Music Theater. Thursday afternoon it was the Asheville Mall, Hamricks, and the Farmers Market. Friday afternoon was fun time. Everyone with talent (and some without) did their bit to entertain the group. We had everything from a fashion show to some beautiful singing. There was lots of laughter and a good time by all.

After supper each night at 6:00 o'clock, we enjoyed another "Sing Unto the Lord" and then a Bible study lead by Becky Jo Sumner. This year Becky Jo chose "places" in the Bible for our study. Monday night we studied about Nain, a name meant beauty pleasantness, a story about Jesus, mother and son. Jericho was our place for Tuesday. Zacchaeus was our main subject Wednesday night. We visited Bethany House of Misery where Jesus invited himself to



*Jackie Flowers explains the "Feast of Israel" as the speaker for the week.*

dinner with the leper. Thursday night our place was Emmaus and we talked about Jesus' walk on the road to Emmaus. Friday night we had Harold Jones as our speaker. Harold gave us an update on happenings from the Mission fields. He also thanked the women of the auxiliary for their continued support. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 was the Scripture he used to share his message about the Love Feast-Communion. He reminded us of the danger of prejudice and what it can do to the Christian. Vespers on Friday night were lead by May Pittman using Psalm 51:10.

Our week came to a close. Saturday morning, after devotions and an early breakfast, we boarded the coach for our return home to join those we left behind.

Our offerings during the week were: Cragmont general fund \$700.00, cool bucks for Cragmont \$220.00.

There were 33 ladies and 2 gentlemen, ages 40-86 who enjoyed the conference. If you didn't make it this year, put it in your plans for the next time. We enjoyed having the two gentlemen join us this year. Hope for more in the future.

A hearty thanks to our staff: Bible Tracker, Jackie Flowers; Morning Devotions, Evelyn Williams; Music Director, Alma Dale Cox; Pianist, Nina Grace Register; Nurse, Frances Phillips; Registrar, Teresa Ball, Co-Registrar, May Pittman. Our thanks also to John, Arlinda, Phyllis, and the kitchen crew for making all of this work a success.



*Fun Time*



## People & Events

### *Flag Dedication at Little Creek Free Will Baptist*

A flag dedication service was held July 4, 1999, immediately following the morning service at Little Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Scuffleton. The morning worship service began with Little Creek's young people marching in with the American and Christian flags. The young people led the congregation in pledges to both of the flags. The entire service was based on a patriotic theme. The congregation sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and other patriotic hymns. Donald Stokes sang special music entitled "We Want America Back." After the regular morning service everyone went outside and gathered around the flagpoles to have the dedication service.



*The William Earl Stocks family.*

The Rev. Frank Flowers opened the service with prayer. The William Earl Stocks family gave the American flagpole to the glory and honor of God in the loving memory of Kay Stocks. Mrs. Stocks was a loyal member of Little Creek Church until her death in July 1995. The Roy T. Forrest and Billy Vandiford families gave the Christian flagpole to the glory and honor of God. The flags were donated by the Woodmen of the World through William Earl Stocks.

All present joined in Responsive Reading 554 which comes from Romans 13:1-10 and is about patriotism. The service then concluded with singing of "You're A Grand Old Flag," and prayer.

Special thanks to Billy and Toni Vandiford for the erecting of the poles and the beautiful landscaping and lighting around the flagpoles.



*Church members around flagpole.*



### *A "Real Plea for Prayer"*

*by Rose G. Bowen*



*Rose G. Bowen*

It is now 1:40 AM and I can't go to sleep! It is Wednesday morning. It has been this way for weeks and because of being without rest, I have almost had a nervous breakdown so I arose and told the Lord that I would write this letter if He would let me sleep.

Since 1984 when Mr. Bowen died and could not write a book he planned because of sudden death and no retirement, I had promised to do it. However, each time I started to fulfill our dream, I would be sick, not have finances, etc., and would become despondent so I would put my pen and paper away.

Well, I received a letter last year from

the "National Endowment of the Arts" in Washington, D.C., offering me a \$20,000 scholarship for seniors with which I could go to any University in the United States to do research, study whatever I wished, or travel. I thought I could not do this due to health and other reasons. I threw the letter away. Someone said I should have framed it because they had never heard of another Free Will Baptist getting such an offer.

Just a few months ago I received more material with a number for me stating that they were waiting for some manuscript and whether I was interested, so I answered telling them what my manuscript would concern.

Cont...



A "Real Plea for Prayer", Cont....

However, I fell again, putting me back three years where I was when I was hurt during Hurricane Bertha. It seemed that I was defeated! Then a miracle happened. Christ appeared to me in a dream telling me to testify for Him. I woke suddenly and there Christ stood in a long, white robe. I asked the Lord how I could testify any more than I already did by asking everyone that I meet at my door, in a store or wherever if they are saved. He said, "Write your book," then disappeared.

The Lord has really talked with me night after night. He has told me the name of the book which will be "From There to Here." It will be divided in four parts I have written every word of it in my mind. Last night I even got to the end. Since being shut in these last few weeks, I have talked to the Lord more than I ever have since conversion at nine years of age and rededication at seventeen and coming into the Free Will Baptist denomination. I pray all day, everyday.

This morning, and it is now 2:30 AM, I have promised the Lord that I would write the book but I need help. If you are a friend of mine, know me personally or not, please send me a card saying you pledge to stay behind me with prayer and encourage me through the Holy Spirit to accomplish this. I made a plea one other time and I did not receive a single card. Have you forgotten me, don't care, or as the excuse usually goes, "We are too busy."

Please ministers, auxiliary workers, Sunday school classes, friends, send me a card this time so that I know you care. It will only take a moment. If you do not, I will go ahead with the help of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is really the only real, true friend that I have any way. May God bless you real good as you *do respond to me and let me know that you care!*

Love and Prayers  
 Rose G. Bowen  
 403-B N. Lee Street  
 Ayden, NC 28513

**Notice!**

A ladies ring was found in the ladies restroom at Mount Olive College during the Annual Missions Conference in February.

Inquiry may be made by calling the Free Will Baptist Press 252-746-6128, ext. 227.

**Ladies Week  
 at Camp Vandemere**

by Amy Scott

Our week at Camp Vandemere was a pleasure as we renewed our old acquaintances and made some new ones. This past week was one of love, fellowship, and laughter, as well as one of seriousness and devotion when the time for worship came.

Each day we were blessed with different morning messages, presented by Julia Ann Gaskins. In Luke 9:23 we are told, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Different points about the Cross were expressed to us each day: Let us not try to carry our burdens alone, but let us lay them at the foot of the Cross; we must be willing to deny ourselves and follow Jesus; we must put Christ before our families and worldly possessions. Let us praise God by going out into this sinful world and evangelizing, because the Word of God needs to be spread. It is our duty to be a disciple for Christ: therefore, let us be committed to Him. As the song says, "Let Other See Jesus in You."

The cool breezes blew and white caps could be seen on the river. Geese flew overhead and ducks swam. The handiwork of God could be seen everywhere. It's a sorrow to think about how fast earthly possessions can be demolished; all it would take would be for one storm to come through. Let us all prepare ourselves to be ready to meet God when the time comes for us to depart from this world.

Our thanks go to the cooks at Camp Vandemere for the delicious meals which were prepared for us each day. We appreciate the hard work they put out for us to enjoy everything.

During our craft time we made reflectors for each side of our driveway in the shape of lighthouses. These lighthouses had already been cut out. Individually, each person took a pair, sanded and painted them, then the reflectors were added. We thank everyone who made this past week successful.

**Thanks Ladies and Camp  
 Vandemere**

by Frances Byron

To all the ladies and Camp Vandemere I want to thank you for a wonderful week with everyone. It was really a blessing and I truly enjoyed it — the food, the craft work, and the fellowship with everyone. The daily devotions were really excellent. I have been down to Camp Vandemere several times before, but this was the first time I stayed overnight.

## People & Events

### 1999 Ladies Auxiliary Week at Camp Vandemere

by Audrey Quinn

Our week at Camp Vandemere was great as always. The theme was "Daily Cross bearing" and we know we will always have our burdens — or crosses — to carry, but thanks to God, as a Christian we don't have to carry them alone.

Three years ago the theme was presented each day by a different speaker. Then it was decided to have only one lady give our morning message each day for the whole week. Last year we were blessed to have Cynthia Mills as speaker and this year Julia Ann Gaskins presented inspiring messages. These two ladies were wonderful. Everyone looked forward to the services.

The evening services were equally inspiring. On Monday night, we were honored to have the Rev. Mike Scott, Pastor of Juniper Chapel, along with the choir from his church. On Tuesday night the message was brought by the Rev. Owen Arthur, Pastor of Memorial Church, also with his church choir. Both services were spirit filled! On Wednesday night, the Rev. Mike Quintos, Pastor of Mt. Zion, and his singers, as well as several members of his congregation, joined us. The message brought by Pastor Quintos was also encouraging. After the service, the members of Mt. Zion treated everyone to delicious banana splits. Last but not least, on Thursday night the Rev. Neal Cox, Pastor of Wintergreen Church, delivered an inspiring sermon. Special music was presented by five ladies that volunteered, along with Neal. Sandy Piner then sang a special song.



We will not forget the closeness that we felt to God, and to each of our Christian friends. When one goes to Ladies Camp Week at Camp Vandemere she leaves with a desire to never miss going again.

I have to give much of the credit for the week's success to Judith Kennedy, who served as co-director. I could not have done it without her. She took care of the monetary collections on Monday when we arrived and also helped out with everything else. If you know Judith you know what a wonderful Christian she is. Also, Amy Scott deserves credit for organizing the music and serving as pianist for the entire week. Amy really loves the Lord and everyone she meets. All of the ladies who attended helped make the week one to remember. Each and every one is special.

## CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. Charlie Tucker is available for pastoral work, revivals, or pulpit supply. He may be contacted at 701 Holding Street, Clayton, NC 27520 or by phone at 919-550-9326.

Hickory Grove OFWB Church, Central Conference is seeking a pastor. If interested, please send resume to: Joseph Williams, PO Box 850, Robersonville, NC 27871

Elm Grove FWB Church is seeking a Youth Minister. Contact the pastor, the Rev. Frankie Baggett, Phone 252-746-3534.



# THE 3RD ANNUAL CONVENTION GOLF FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Shotgun Start at 12:15 PM

Southern Wayne Country Club — Mount Olive, North Carolina

## 4-MAN SUPERBALL

Any Handicap Combinations

Limited to the first 22 teams to register by phone or mail.

### Trophies and Prizes

1st place team — Valued at over \$100 per player

2nd place team — Valued at over \$75 per player

3rd place team — Valued at over \$50 per player

Plus

One participant will receive a gift certificate from "Golf, etc"  
of New Bern, NC good for a set of Custom-Made Golf Clubs (3-SW)

Retail value of this prize — \$500

Tickets for this prize, and many others, may be purchased on tournament day

Red Bombs — \$5 each (limit 2 per player) Entry Fee includes 1 MULLIGAN per player;  
1 additional Mulligan per player at \$5

### IMPORTANT:

Participants must be included in one of the following categories:

- \*An Original Free Will Baptist Minister (licensed or ordained) or their spouse
- \*An employee or Board member of an Original Free Will Baptist ministry or their spouse
- \*A member of an Original Free Will Baptist Church or Sunday School

**Entry Fee: \$160.00 per team**

Please return this registration form, along with your entry fee only, as soon as possible to:

Buddy Sasser, 2216 Ridge Road, New Bern, NC 28560.

Make checks payable to: Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include total team entry fee with your registration if possible.

Entry fee included

Will pay at the tournament.

#### Team Members

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to be placed on a team

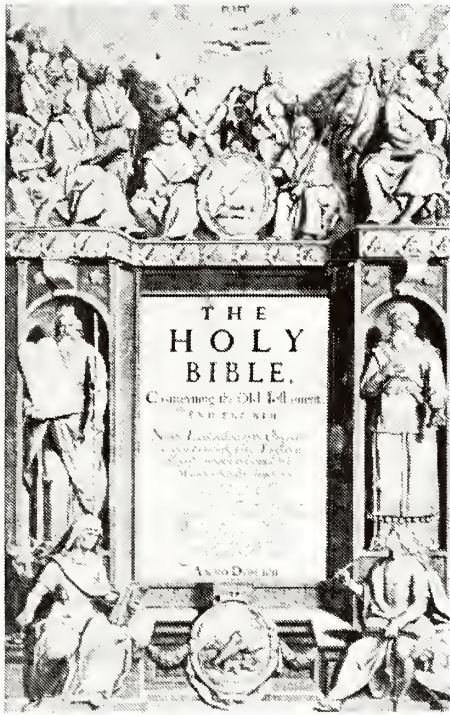
I will serve as a volunteer worker

For phone registration or additional information please call Buddy Sasser at (252) 638-9012.

# CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Source: *The Title Page of the King James Version of the Bible*, 1611. A facsimile of the title page at the Newberry Library, Chicago. The facsimile, true to the original size of the 1611 edition (15 5/8 inches long and 9 7/8 inches wide), was given to Rev. Warning by a teacher from Northwood Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

## Introduction

Original Free Will Baptists as a denomination have considered the King James translation of the Bible as a standard for preaching and study. Although other translations are used within the denomination, there is something wonderful about hearing the Elizabethan language as a part of the preaching and Bible reading on Sunday morning. This is the poetic language of Shakespeare.

This translation is kept as a standard today among Original Free Will Baptist because in coming to America, the Original Free Will Baptist brought this translation with them. By the middle of the seventeenth century, the King James Version of the Bible was read by English-speaking people. More copies of the King James Version of the Bible have been printed, sold, and circulated than any other book in any language.

However, what has been lost in our modern translation is the original Christian art on the title page of the original King James Bible in 1611.

## Artistic Style

In 1611 we find ourselves in a period of classical revival, a time of looking back to Greece and Rome, a time when buildings reflected classical characteristics. The title page art is a design that takes its form from a building. At the very top of the building form, dead center, shining down are the Hebrew four letters, the sacred tetragramaton, translated as God Almighty (Yahweh). In artistic style of classical buildings, often the most important statements were carved at the top, much in the same way we name buildings today with letters.

If the KJV of the Bible is the epitome of Scripture to our denomination, and if the publisher Robert Barker and the 1611 compilers thought the Christian art on the title page was important, let's take a look at the Christian art and its symbolism.

## Symbolism

To the left at the top of the title page are the sun and moon of creation. Coming down from this center glory is a descending dove, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. Beneath this dove are apostles who may be identified by the symbol of their martyrdom. For example, the first figure on the left under the dove is Andrew holding the x-shaped cross of his martyrdom. Further left is Bartholomew who is holding a knife because he was filleted alive.

To the viewer's right of the dove on the lower level of the apostles is Paul with the sword, the symbol of his martyrdom in Rome. Across from Paul is St. Peter, displaying the keys, not a symbol of martyrdom but a symbol keys to the Kingdom of God given to him by Jesus. All of these apostles surround an oval-shaped emblem which shows a lamb with a cross, symbolizing Jesus the Christ, the lamb of God, slain as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world for all times: perfect, complete, and loving sacrifice.

Images of two writing prophets or Bible translators are on each side of the lamb. Perhaps the writers symbolize the martyred translators and writers of the biblical record. Did one look like William Tyndale (1492–1536) or Miles Coverdale (1488–1569)? Is the writer at the right with the lion at his feet the translator of the Latin Vulgate, Jerome (340–420)? On the left an angel holds the ink pot, as if making a transition from the spoken work to the written word.

## Conclusion

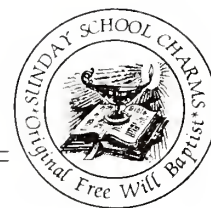
The Preface of the 1611 King James Version of the Bible reminds us of the importance of the Bible as a source of building our faith. The reality of building, both in the Christian art use of a structure and in the 1611 use of the translation to build faith, stands out in the Preface which states: "It remaineth, that we commend thee to God, and to the Spirit of his grace, which is able to build further than we can aske or thinke..."

Next month I shall clarify more thoroughly the Christian art below the pediment of the building from the title page. Some of you may wish to clip this Christian art of the title page of the King James Version of the Bible and place it in your own Bible.



# Sunday School Charms

## Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



Remarks given during the May 2, 1999, morning worship service at Sherron Acres Original Free Will Baptist Church, Durham, NC, on the occasion of the celebration of the 65th Anniversary of Sunday School at Sherron Acres Church. Robert Currie currently is teacher of the Currie Bible Class at Sherron Acres and is chairman of the church's Board of Deacons. Mr. Currie is active in the work of the Gideons in Durham, NC.

### 65 Years of Sunday School at Sherron Acres

by Robert D. Currie

I have been told that Sunday school was started by the Presbyterian Church many years ago. Well, the Sherron Acres Sunday school was not founded that many years ago, but was begun 65 years ago. Now that sounds like a very long time ago in one sense of the word, but I was here as a three-year-old boy then, and I don't call myself an old man. Perhaps others do.

We have had a very good Sunday school over the years and continue to be blessed with one. Many children and adults have gone through this system during this time and came out much better men, women, boys, and girls prepared to face life and to serve our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Many ministers, teachers, and other Christian workers are products of the Sherron Acres Sunday School.

Back in 1932, Brother Quillie Hansley moved to this community with his wife and children from the city of Durham. He was a former sailor, tatoos and all, but a sinner saved by grace. He was born and reared in Onslow County, NC, until he came to Durham to work at Durham Hosiery Mills as a full-fashioned knitter of silk hosiery. Brother Hansley saw a need for a church in this community, since there was not one within a few miles. He began to conduct prayer meetings in neighbor's homes and then purchased a little house that was once a dance hall to hold church service in. That little house, our first church building, stood about where our church kitchen and some of our Sunday school rooms are now.

Brother R. L. Hutchins, a retired carpenter and co-founder of our church did most of the preaching for us and

also served as our first Sunday school superintendent. I recall that his daughter, Rose, was my first teacher. My second teacher was Mrs. Carney and the third was Mrs. Penny Hansley. The church families that I remember at that time were Quillie Hansley, Claudie Lynn, Percy Smith, Waynie Mitchell, John Currie, R.L. Hutchins, and the Carneys. The Rev. Z.P. Ferrell was a great inspiration to all and encouraged our founders to accomplish many great things.

Our first Christmas in the little house was much like it is today. We had our Sunday school Christmas program on Wednesday night and each person was given a fruit and candy bag. That was a Christmas in 1934.

Brother Quillie Hansley came upon an old Baptist Church building in Holly Springs, NC and purchased it, tore it down and moved it to Durham, piece by piece. He then rebuilt it upon this spot, with the help of brother R.L. Hutchins and other men in the community. The material, for the most part, was said to be about 100 years old.

Mr. Hansley preached, also Mr. Hutchins preached and served as our first Sunday school superintendent. The first called pastor was the Rev. E.D. Woodall who began February 17, 1934, and stayed until November 18, 1935. The Rev. T.C. Marks, the father of Mrs. Eugena Queen, one of our present members, was then called as pastor and served for 14 months. The membership grew by 11 new members during his pastorate. Our Sunday school during this time was very up-to-date. The small children were given Sunday school picture cards with a memory verse on it and the lesson was taught

from the card. The older students had quarterlies much like the ones we have today. I expect those little cards would be valuable today to collectors.

We didn't have any individual classrooms then, so we had wires stretched across the sanctuary with green burlap curtains to separate the classes. We had Easter egg hunts on Easter Monday in the woods to the right of the Church. Participants were not only the small children but also teens and young adults too. You see, none of us ever got much candy. It was during the great depression and the economy was pretty bad. I remember one Sunday when Mr. Claude Lynn was teaching the Adult Sunday school class, before we had painted the sanctuary, and the topic that Sunday was about the Passover and how the Isaelites smeared the lamb's blood over the doors so that the death angel would pass over their houses. Mr. Lynn, in his illustration, brought a can of red paint and a brush with him that morning and painted red over the rear door behind the pulpit. That illustration really made an impression on me. Of course, it was painted over in a few weeks, when the sanctuary was painted.

Our church at that time was called Hansley's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. The Rev. Fred A. Rivenbark was called as part-time pastor in January, 1937. Under his guidance and the Lord's blessings, the church began to grow by leaps and bounds. After one year, the church in conference, called Rev. Rivenbark as full-time pastor. By then, the families of Choplin, Joyner, Whitaker, Ladd, Bizzell, Thomas, Marcus Rogers, Morris Rogers,

Cont...

## Sunday School Charms

### 65 Years of Sunday School at Sherron Acres, Cont....

Markham, Lewis Bennet, Roy Bennett, Gleen, Goodwin, Queen, and Nifong joined the church, and I could keep on going.

During this period of time, we began to Cross and Crown System and awarded a pin for perfect attendance for a whole year, a wreath to go around the pin for the second year and attaching pins for all the following years, it was said that if Mrs. Rivenbark had accepted a pin for every year that she had perfect attendance, the pins would hang down to her knees. So, perfect attendance was important to many of us. We couldn't afford a friendship ring. A silver friendship ring at Kress Stores was 10 cents and after the 1 cent sales tax and the 2 cent luxury tax added it cost 13 cents. Boys let their girlfriends wear their Sunday school pin and girls let their boyfriends wear theirs. One time Mr. Ladd was going to take a group of teenagers to Carolina Beach for the weekend. He had a Ford pickup truck and he put a canvas cover over it and some straw in the floor. Mrs. Ladd was concerned about the kids missing Sunday school. Mr. Ladd promised her that we would be in Sunday school that day. When Sunday morning came, he handed me his keys and said, take these kids to Sunday

school. Well, we went and saw many other kids there, some in their bathing suits. But we were present, and returned back home safely, carrying our proof of attendance slips so that we would get our perfect attendance pins.

Hansley's Chapel Church was renamed Sherron Acres Free Will Baptist Church to appeal to a wider coverage of people. Many more families joined and through the World War II years attendance was steady. The Rev. Fred Rivenbark stayed with us until 1944 and the Rev. Ray Allman until 1948. The Rev. Ralph Lightsey was our pastor for a year and Rev. Rivenbark was recalled in 1949. During this period, we began a major building program when we built the basement, now called the Rivenbark Hall, and put the old church over the basement. The Sunday school department was mainly upstairs. These rooms and hall are called the Hansley Hall. In 1954, our present sanctuary was completed over the basement portion that now bears the name of Allman Hall. It now houses some of our classes, nursery and Sunday school offices. Our Sunday school continues to grow. Brothers Lewis Bennett and Ollen Lane have served for many years as our

superintendents and Brother Lane is still active in that position. Mrs. Gertrude Ladd, Claude Lynn, Mozelle Bennett, Anna Goodwin Mobley, Kathleen Rogers, Clarence Hicks, John Currie, Percy Smith, Mrs. Forehand, Carl Choplin and Lillie Markham who taught the young students the ABC's of the Bible, have been outstanding teachers over the years. I haven't named them all by any means but God knows them and will reward them openly.

We have kept a strong Sunday school over the years with pastors Smith, Osborne, Morris, Rivenbark, Wallace, Grubbs, Clifton, and Doug Skinner, who is our present pastor. We realize that there are many churches in our area who have bus ministries that pick up kids in our neighborhood and we also know families in this community are old couples and have no children to send to Sunday school. But we praise the Lord for the members that we do have and we are striving to bring in more men, women, boys and girls to our present Sunday school, thanks to our Sunday school staff and loyal teachers. And thanks to our present students who keep our Sunday school active.

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# Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator



**Make Your Home  
a Lighthouse**

**Prayer, Care, Share**

*"Shine out...like beacons of light,  
holding out...the Word of Life"*

Philippians 2: 15b, 16

## About Mission America & Celebrate Jesus 2000

- ❖ Mission America is a coalition of some 400 National Christian Leaders who represent 70+ denominations, and over 300 parachurch ministries focused on the vision of Celebrate 2000... to pray for, care for, and share Christ with every man, woman, and young person in America by year-end 2000!
- ❖ The Lighthouse strategy is the key to accomplishing this vision. Your involvement in this effort gives you the opportunity to be a part of what God is doing across the nation.

Resources to help you pray, care and share are available. For more information, be sure you attend the **1999 Convention of Original Free Will Baptists**, meeting on the campus of Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, North Carolina, September 14-16.



## The Convention of Original Free Will Baptist Announces CHOIR FEST '99

**Saturday, September 11 • Mount Olive College**

Churches and choirs are invited to participate in this great inspirational event. Regardless of the size of your choir, or which type of Church music, all are invited.

Choir Fest '99 is not a competition. It will be a time of fellowship, praise, and unity for Original Free Will Baptists. Each participating choir is asked to prepare at least four songs and will be notified as to the exact time of its performance.

During the evening session, all participating choirs will be joining together to form the Original Free Will Baptist Convention Choir.

All activities will begin at 1:00 PM and will end no later than 8:00 PM.

NOTE: COMPLETE INFORMATION, INCLUDING A REGISTRATION FORM, HAS BEEN MAILED TO ALL PASTORS. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS, POST OFFICE BOX 39, AYDEN, NC 28513, (252) 746-4963.

# Choir Fest 99

Saturday • September 11  
Mount Olive College

# August Is... --- Heritage Month

For  
Original Free Will Baptists

**PURPOSE:**

1. To effectively know where we are going, we must understand from whence we have come.
2. To provide the opportunity for our people to reflect upon the importance of continuing ministry.
3. To show the *connection* between the congregation and the Convention.
4. To remind us all of our privilege and obligation to support the Church that we may continue our heritage.
5. To rekindle/revitalize our commitment of this ministry to the Church.
6. To participate financially in the maintenance of this ministry.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Congregation Sunday	August 1
Covenant Sunday	August 8
Mission/Ministry Sunday	August 15
Heritage Sunday	August 22
Celebrate Jesus 2000 Sunday	August 29

## 1999 Coming Events

September 3-6 Labor Day Weekend Headquarters Closed	September 26-30 Community Tent Revival Cove City, NC
September 7 OFWB Press Foundation Membership Meeting Retirement Homes Board of Directors	October 2 Cape Fear District Woman's Auxiliary Convention
September 11 Choir Fest '99, MOC	October 6 Western District Woman's Auxiliary Convention Albemarle Conference
September 13 Cragmont Board Meeting, MOC	October 7 Albemarle District Woman's Auxiliary Convention
September 14 Special Chapel Service, MOC Night of Evangelism, MOC 3rd Annual Convention Golf Fellowship	October 9 Pee Dee District Woman's Auxiliary Convention
September 14-16 1999 Convention of OFWB College Hall, MOC	October 10 Pastor Appreciation Sunday
September 15 Sunday School Banquet and Mission Rally, MOC	October 14 Western Conference
September 18 Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention Mount Zion OFWB Church Vandemere	October 15-16 Cragmont Club Weekend
September 20 Eastern Conference Ministerial Examining Board Meeting Conference Office, Deep Run, NC	October 16 Pee Dee Association
September 25 Central District Woman's Auxiliary Convention	October 17 Eastern Conference
	October 22-24 Cragmont Club Weekend
	October 31 Daylight Savings - Set Clocks Back

## Convention Personalities

During the 1999 Convention to be held in College Hall at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, North Carolina, on September 14 through September 16, the following persons will be sharing as we gather for our eighty-seventh annual session.



*The Rev. Leon Grubbs*

The Rev. Leon Grubbs is president of the Convention and is pastor of the Hull Road Original Free Will Baptist Church of Snow Hill, North Carolina.



*Dr. Larry Lewis*

Dr. Larry Lewis is the National Facilitator for *Celebrate Jesus 2000* and will be speaking during our Night of Evangelism on Tuesday, September 14, 1999, and will deliver the keynote message on Wednesday morning, September 15, 1999.



*The Rev. Frank Harrison*

The Rev. Frank Harrison, Chaplain of Mount Olive College and a member of the Examining Board of the Cape Fear Conference, will deliver the message on Thursday morning, September 16, 1999.



*The Rev. Norm W. Whan*

The Rev. Norm W. Whan President/Founder of Canning Hunger will be speaking during Home Missions Service, Wednesday, 7:30 PM.





Dr. Pepper Worthington

# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Thomas à Kempis. *The Imitation of Christ in The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics*. Introduction by Timothy P. Weber. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

## Introduction

Thomas à Kempis's *The Imitation of Christ* is divided into four parts. The Third Book give us a detailed pattern for developing consolation within. Numerous issues are addressed, as Timothy P. Weber notes: "the power of love (chs. V-VI), the importance of humility (chs. VII-VIII), the dangers of success (chs. LV-LIX) (439).

## Power of Love

What power does love actually have? Thomas declares, "Love is a great thing, a good above all others, which alone maketh every heavy burden light, and equaliseth ever inequality" (483). The power of love is manifold: "Love often times knoweth no measure, but breaketh out above all measure; love feelth no burden, reckoneth not labours, striveth after more than it is able to do, pleadeth not impossibility, because it judgeth all things which are lawful for it to be possible. It is strong therefore for all things, and it fulfilleth many things, and is successful where he who loveth not faileth and lieth down" (484).

## Traits of Love

What are the traits of love? Thomas describes love as "swift, pious, pleasant, gentle, strong, patient, faithful, prudent, long-suffering, manly, and never seeking her own" (484). Love is also "circumspect, humble, and upright; not weak, not fickle, not intent on vain things; sober, chaste, steadfast, quiet, and guarded in all the senses" (484). Love resists evil, seeks both prayer and "holy reading" (485), and strives against "the evil motions of the mind" (485).

## Dangers of Success

What are some of the dangers of success? A successful person might be tempted to become vainglorious and thereby rob God of "the true glory" (512). Vanity leads to pride, arrogance, and a concern for earthly recognition, applause, and comforts. The dangers of success are clear: "That which profiteth little or nothing is looked after, and that which is altogether necessary is negligently passed by; because the whole man slideth away to outward things, and unless he quickly recovereth himself in outward things he willingly lieth down" (515).

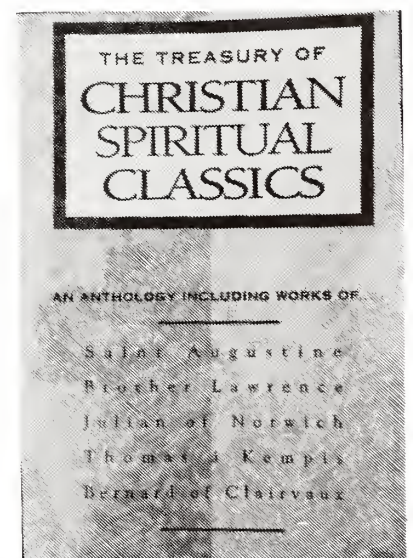
## Supremacy of Grace

What is grace? Why do we need grace? Thomas describes our fallen nature and desperate need of God's holy, undeserved grace: "There is need of Thy grace, yea, and of a great measure thereof, that my nature may be conquered, which hath always been prone to evil from my youth" (527). Grace is necessary for "a good beginning, for progress, and for bringing to perfection" (528) the fallen, wicked, sinful, corrupt nature of all of us. Only in imitating the love and grace of Christ do we perceive the "blessed life" (529) and "go forward" (529) in love and grace. Only through grace do we move closer to a calmness of spirit and strength of endurance.

## Conclusion

Thomas à Kempis reminds us, as Milton did later in *Paradise Lost*, that the presence of God is the beginning of spiritual wholeness and heaven while the absence of God is to fall into division and hell. He writes: "Where Thou art, there is heaven; and where Thou are not, behold there is death and hell" (532).

Both Goethe's Mephistopheles and Milton's Satan understood those words.



**The Imitation of Christ in The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON**

# 1999 CONVENTION



College Hall • Mount Olive College • Mount Olive, North Carolina  
September 14-16 (Tuesday, September 14 — Night of Evangelism)

Theme: "A Call To The Harvest"

(Please use for bulletin board in church or Sunday school class)

*The Free Will Baptist*

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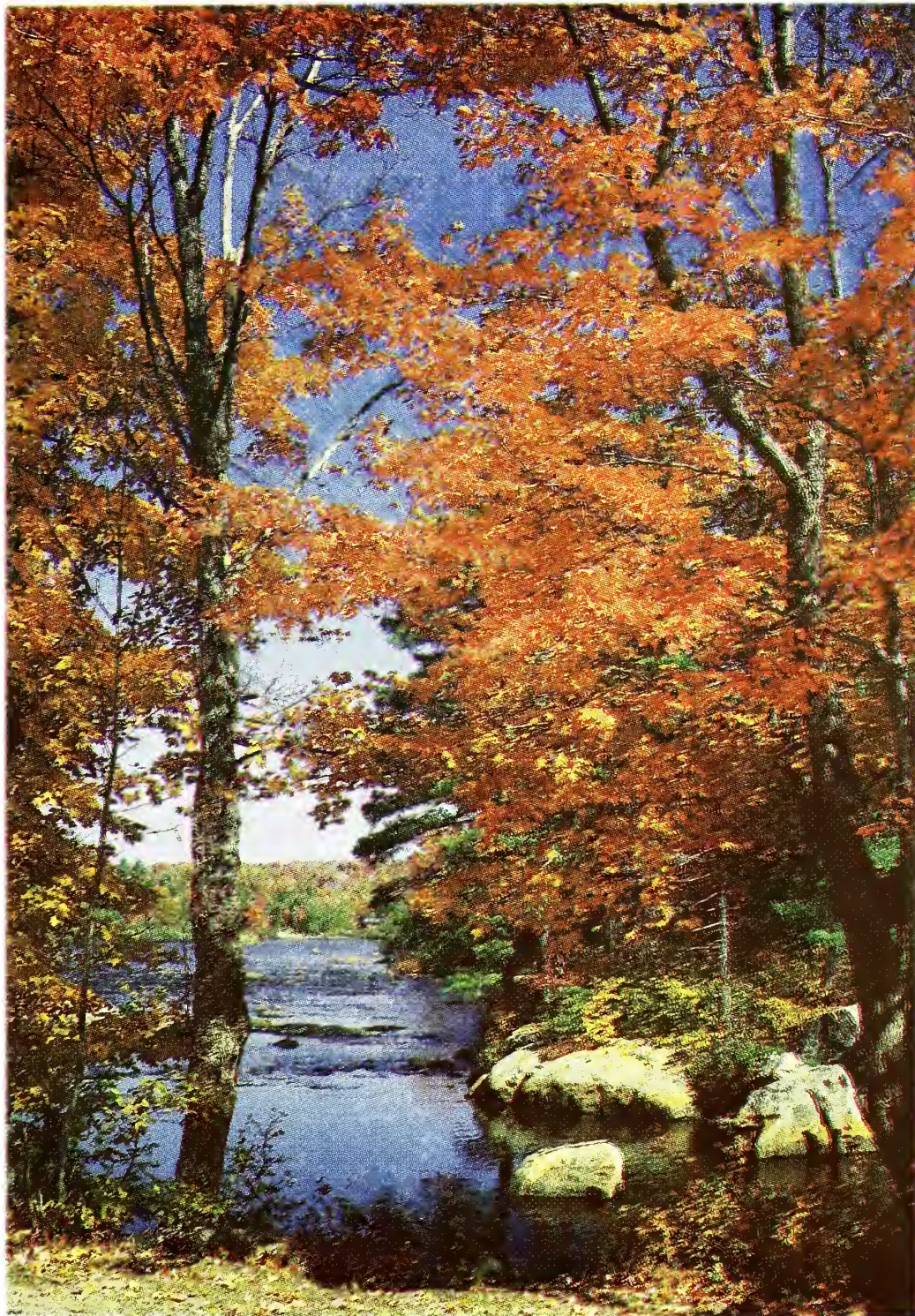


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*C. H. Overman*

## THE CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP — *Its Present Status*

During life's journey we are influenced by various leaders — those who impact our lives in various ways. Such was the focus of our comments in last month's editorial. As we remember the leaders in our lives, we ponder and evaluate the leadership qualities which they possessed and exemplified. Before doing so, let us take a backward look concerning the crisis of leadership.

Much has been written in the past few years relative to leadership. Browse through any bookstore and you will find numerous books pertaining to the subject. Seminars and workshops are being conducted throughout the country on such topics as "How to Be a Successful Leader," etc.

Dr. De Wayne Eakes, one of our ministers and denominational leaders, sounded the alarm relative to "The Crisis of Leadership" in his book by that title. While various denominational leaders contributed to the writing, it was conceived in the mind and heart of Dr. Eakes, as he states in the Preface:

"The genesis of this book is the result of a slow process of evolution and awareness as I have worked the past twenty-nine years in the Original Free Will Baptist Church. It has come about also as a result of my genuine concern for the future of my beloved denomination...."

"My concern is twofold. One is sheer numbers. Why are we no longer attracting young people to the vocational ministry as in the past? As the aging process continues among active clergy leaders, some retire and others die. We are left without sufficient numbers to fill the vacancies. The second concern is for the quality of leadership. If the axiom 'no organization will rise above the vision, aspirations, and abilities of its leadership' is true, the quality is critical...."

In the crisis as acute as it was in 1995 when Brother Eakes' book was written? Is there reason for greater optimism? He feels there is, and when asked about it he stated that he was now more positive regarding the crisis of leadership. "This is largely due," he said, "to the number of churches who are now seeking youth ministers, the emphasis that is now being placed on the training of youth ministers, plus an increase in the number of those answering the call to ministry."

We realize this trend is not a "quick fix." It will not happen overnight. It will be gradual as those who are now beginning to move into leadership roles take their place as leaders in our churches and denomination.

Each generation has its leaders and the following generations will have theirs. The quality of leadership will depend largely on the foundation and groundwork of our generation. Senior ministers and denominational leaders must encourage and support the young ministers in their work.

The ultimate solution, however, rests on the affirmative response to the question asked of Isaiah: "...Whom shall I send, and who will go for us." (Isaiah 6:8). Thus, upon the shoulders of our youth and others who enter His service in later years rests the solution.

Many denominational leaders sense the moving of God's Spirit in our nation and world. Young people are becoming more and more involved in Christian activities and service. Our pastors and churches are seeking the help of youth ministers and youth workers. The demand is increasing each year, and our educational institutions are beginning to offer courses of study pertaining to youth ministries. Mount Olive College has responded to the need and is seeking to help "fill the gap." Our youth leaders also sense the urgency and are encouraging our youth to commit their lives to Jesus Christ. Out of such commitments leaders are born.

We cannot sit idly by in a state of complacency, hoping that the crisis of leadership will automatically disappear. Our prayers must continue more fervently. Who will our leaders be in the year 2010 or 2050? Some of them have not yet been born, and others are out there now, waiting for the call of God, or waiting for someone to give them the opportunity to serve. Let us pray that many more will answer with Isaiah, "...Here am I; send me."

We miss those who once walked among us — the men and women of God who dedicated themselves to God's service and who chose to fulfill that calling under the Original Free Will Baptist banner. Their accomplishments live on in the lives of those they influenced or in the ministry and work they envisioned, and others have taken their place. Just as Elijah's mantle fell upon the shoulders of Elisha (see 2 Kings 2), they have continued the work begun by the leaders of the past.

(Note: we will take up the matter of qualities of leadership in next month's editorial.)



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## NEXT MONTH

*October is  
Minister's Program  
Month*

*September is  
Home Missions  
& Evangelism  
Month*

# Features

## Eighty-seventh Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

*"The Call to the Harvest"*

College Hall • Mount Olive College  
Mount Olive, North Carolina  
Tuesday, September 14, 1999

### Tuesday Evening

7:30 Night of Evangelism ..... Mission America  
Dr. Larry Lewis, National Facilitator

### Wednesday, September 15

#### Morning Session

8:30 Registration of Ministers and Delegates  
9:00 Convention Called to Order .....  
The Rev. Buddy Sasser, Secretary  
Congregational Singing .....  
The Rev. Charles Renfrow, Music Director  
Scripture and Prayer ..... The Rev. Carol Hansley  
Welcome to Mount Olive College .....  
Dr. William Byrd, College President  
9:10 President's Remarks ..... The Rev. Leon Grubbs  
9:20 Executive Committee Report ..... The Rev. Buddy Sasser  
9:25 Financial Report ..... The Rev. Ronnie Hobgood  
9:30 Report of the General Administrator .....  
The Rev. David C. Hansley  
9:40 Recognition of Conference Moderators,  
New Churches and New Ministers .....  
The Rev. David C. Hansley  
9:50 Project Solution Task Force Report .....  
The Rev. C.H. Overman  
10:00 Youth and Family Committee Report .....  
The Rev. Harold Swinson  
10:10 Nominating Committee Report .....  
The Rev. Ray Wells, Chairman  
Floor Open for Nominations  
10:20 Church Finance Association Report ..... The Rev. Don Fader  
10:30 Congregational Singing  
Special Music ..... The Convention Quartet  
10:40 Minister's Program Report ..... The Rev. Don Fader  
10:50 Children's Home Report ..... Dr. Bobby Taylor  
11:00 Break  
11:10 The Morning Worship Service ..... Dr. Larry Lewis, Speaker  
12:10 Recess for Lunch

#### Afternoon Session

1:10 Registration Re-opens  
1:30 Congregational Singing  
Scripture and Prayer ..... The Rev. Luther Bissette

1:40 Recognition of Fraternal Delegates .....  
The Rev. David C. Hansley  
1:50 Cragmont Report ..... The Rev. John Williams  
2:00 Foreign Missions Report ..... The Rev. Harold Jones  
2:10 Free Will Baptist Press Report ..... Mr. Cliff Gray  
2:20 Home Missions and Evangelism Report .....  
The Rev. Al Markuson  
2:30 Break  
2:40 Mount Olive College Report ..... Dr. J. William Byrd  
2:50 Retirement Homes Report ..... The Rev. Bruce Dudley  
3:00 Sunday School Board Report ..... Mrs. Mary Dudley  
3:10 Benediction and Recess

### 5:45 Sunday School Board Banquet in Murphy Center

### Wednesday Evening Mission Rally 7:30 — College Hall

### Thursday, September 16, 1999

8:30 Final Registration  
9:00 Morning Worship Service .... The Rev. Frank Harrison, Speaker  
10:00 A Time of Prayer for our Country, our Congregation and our  
Convention  
10:10 Break  
10:20 Congregational Song  
10:25 Chaplain's Commission Report ..... The Rev. Adrian Grubbs  
10:30 Ministerial Association Report ..... The Rev. Harold Swinson  
10:35 Woman's Auxiliary Report .... Mrs. Carolyn Jernigan, President  
10:40 Carolina Bible Institute Report .....  
The Rev. Rudy Owens  
10:45 Camp Vandemere Report ..... The Rev. Owen Arthur  
10:50 Historical Commission Report ..... Dr. Michael Pelt  
10:55 League Convention Report ..... Ms. Becky Jo Sumner  
11:00 Report of the Credentials Committee  
11:05 Layman's League Report  
11:10 Break  
11:20 Report of the Resolutions Committee .... Dr. David Hines, Chair  
11:30 Memorial Service ..... Obituary Committee  
11:45 The Convention is Adjourned



# RICHES

## to Rags Solomon's Kingdom

by Edmundo G. Gonzalez

**T**he kingdom of Solomon was surely the most glorious kingdom the world has yet seen. It was not a large kingdom and it was not a prosperous one, but it had a perfect government because of the wisdom of its king.

It was unparalleled in its judicial system, its daily administration, architecture, and engineering (1 Kings 5:1-7: 51). It was even a patron of the arts (1 Kings 4:32). In economics the kingdom had no equal and boasted a rich commercial enterprise.

Solomon was Israel's first dynastic ruler. God had given him a special measure of power. He was a charismatic ruler like Saul and David before him. Solomon became the great patron of Israel's Wisdom literature. He was the hero of antiquity (some scholars say with the possible exception of Alexander the Great) much celebrated in folk literature.

David, Solomon's father, had entrusted an expanse of territory to maintain and control. He had to effect a smooth transition as possible from the existing tribal confederacy of pre-Davidic political life to a central government strong enough to maintain the expanse of territory — Israel's empire. Solomon immediately set about to change the tribal boundaries to administrative districts.

His administration began to recruit laborers from among the Canaanites. When those laborers became insufficient for the enormous building enterprises, he began recruiting Israelites as laborers. This act on the part of

the king did not go well with his countrymen. The twelve districts of Judah alone, which were tax districts, each already was providing support for the Court for one month during the year. The forced labor policy was very unpopular and led to the assassination of Adoniram, who was in charge of the labor crews (see 1 Kings 12:18; 4:6).

Solomon was not only a king, but an enterprising merchant. Trading was his forté. His manufacturing center at Ezion-geber and seaport on the Gulf of Aqabah was one of the main bases for his exchanging activities. Israel also had control of the land bridge between Egypt and Asia. Knowing full well of this strategic control, he exploited his position by controlling the caravan routes running north-south. Solomon's pact with Hiram of Tyre gave him a fleet that controlled the sea lanes. Phoenicians manned Solomon's fleet. The fleet alone in its merchandising filled the king's coffers and made him a wealthy king.

The Queen of Sheba visited Solomon, having heard of his great wisdom. But most likely she was interested in commercial purposes, at first. Solomon had control of the trade routes as well as sea lanes that became a financial threat to other monarchs, specially the Sabaeans from whom the queen successfully intervened by sharing her profits with Solomon.

Solomon also was in the business of buying and trading horses, becoming the exclusive agent for the Hittites and Arameans who negotiated with him in order to buy horses from Cilicia (Kue) or chariots from the Egyptians (1 Kings 10:28, 29). The king lived in Oriental splendor, though Israelites did not prosper uniformly, yet their standard of living had been raised.

Israel's celebration and magnificence as well as quality of its religion had no comparison. The finer points of service to God were the envy of the neighboring nations and beyond. The Temple and Solomon had no competitors in beauty and wisdom. Jesus compared the glory of Solomon to the perfect God-created flowers, the lilies (Luke 12:27). He also contrasted Solomon's wisdom to that  
cont....

## Solomon's Kingdom, cont....

of His own, "...a greater than Solomon is here" (Matthew 12:42). Solomon's fame was so intense that his own countrymen thought of him as perhaps the long-awaited seed of the woman. And one wonders whether Psalm 72 was written for Messiah's glorious kingdom or for the praise of Solomon.

Judah and Israel now were as many "...as the sand which is by the sea in multitude,...." (1 Kings 4:20). They were eating and drinking and making merry. In a rare occasion, God spoke to Solomon in his dream and asked, "...what I shall give thee" (1 Kings 3:5). He had found grace in God's sight, for God does not ask such a question of just anyone. Solomon had the opportunity to ask God to enrich his kingdom, solidify his political ambitions in the region, or make a bulwark around Israel to be safe from her enemies. He needed all of this, but asked for "...an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad:..." (1 Kings 3:9). God granted his petition as well as riches and honor. Solomon must have sensed that if he sought God and His kingdom, "...all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). Solomon now had wisdom, wealth and power.

Lurking in the center of the wisdom and glory of Solomon was a fatal flaw that all men possess: a sinful, human nature. This master sage and charismatic ruler, whose choice of gifts at Gibeon had asked for an "understanding heart," who decided the fate of the harlots' dispute over the baby, and whose talent for writing proverbs and songs and poetry was well recognized in the realm, was a sinful man!

The great Solomon had entered into a polygamous relationship with a multiplicity of wives, along with scores of concubines, disobeying Israel's monotheistic ideal. Along with his foreign wives came also their foreign religions. The king also quickly compromised his spiritual

convictions of his prayer at the dedication of the temple. He had said, "...Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath..." (1 Kings 8:23). Solomon also had succumbed to the practice of syncretistic worship (attempted reconciliation of different principles) to conciliate his foreign wives in total breach of Israel's covenant. God did not then nor does he now condone polygamy.

In fairness to the chosen king of Israel, consideration must be given to the overriding principles above all others in the thinking of Solomon: the desire to establish political diplomatic ties with existing kingdoms of the Mediterranean but most especially the fertile Crescent from which many of his wives had come. "...Solomon loved many strange women..." (1 Kings 11:1). Israel's king discovered that the most effective way to ratify a political treaty was to marry one of the daughters of the foreign king. In this way Solomon began multiplying wives as well as disasters. Each wife brought along the priests of her god. They were, of course, pagan gods. The hills of Jerusalem were filled with shrines and temples. These pagan places had multiplied as rapidly as Solomon's wives. Once these pagan religious institutions were established, they were difficult to overthrow. In the fifteen or twenty years of Solomon's reign, paganism had established deep roots in Israel's

society and remained there for over three-hundred years. The reformer kings such as Asa, Uzziah and Hezekiah were unable to destroy the foreign cults. It was not until the seventh century BC and during the great reform movement of Josiah that the "high places" in and around Jerusalem were destroyed (2 Kings 23:13). Many years later Nehemiah would stand before Israel and say, "Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things?..." (Nehemiah 13:26). He had! And yet, Solomon was beloved of his God.

God's grace was upon Solomon. Instead of the kingdom dividing during Solomon's reign, God permitted him to rule over a united kingdom. "...God made him king over all Israel:..." (Nehemiah 13:26). The kingdom would be divided when Jeroboam, a young Ephraimite, led the revolt against the Davidic dynasty and the kingdom.

Lord Melbourne announced to the young princess Victoria that she was now Queen of the great realm of England. Immediately he opened the Bible and read from it to the young sovereign the story of Solomon's dream in Gibeon. It was a prophetic Scripture for Victoria became one of England's most beloved queens. If only it had been half as true for he who dreamed the dream, Israel's history might have been much different.

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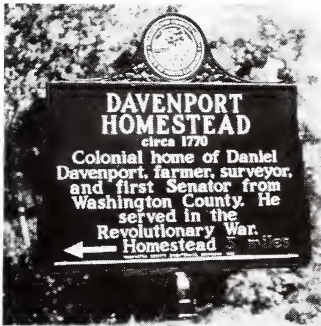
# Mount Tabor

## Original Free Will Baptist Church

### Celebrates opening of Davenport Homestead

Dr. Pepper Worthington, Director, Mount Olive College Press

"Several members of our church helped with the Davenport Homestead," said the Rev. Tony Parrish, pastor of the Mount Tabor Original Free Will Baptist Church. "Especially Virginia Haire," he added as he brought Mrs. Haire over to the back of the Davenport house in Creswell, NC.



The Davenport Homestead recently has been made a North Carolina historical site. The historical marker is near the Mt. Tabor Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Active in the Mount Tabor Church, Mrs. Haire became interested in the Davenport project to make the homestead of Daniel Davenport, the first senator of Washington County in 1800, a North Carolina historical landmark.

Owned and maintained by the Historical Society of Washington County, the Davenport Homestead reflects the rugged, rigorous life of the Davenport family. The old house was built on the land that belonged to Daniel Davenport and his descendants as far back as the 1700s. In 1995, Charlie Davenport deeded the land to the Historical Society of Washington County.

"The Davenport Homestead is



Members of the Mt. Tabor Church, Creswell, NC, helped with the Davenport Homestead celebration. Featured from left to right are Virginia Haire, Kay Parrish, Amy Parrish, and the Rev. Tony Parrish, pastor of the Mt. Tabor Church.

important," explained Virginia Haire of Mt. Tabor Church, "because this old house is the oldest house in the Creswell neighborhood. The neighborhood around the Mt. Tabor Church is a fascinating old community. Just think of it. This old house never had electricity, never had plumbing, never was improved, really. Chickens roamed under the house and they kept the termites away," Mrs. Haire noted.

"What did Daniel Davenport do?" I asked Mrs. Haire.

"Do?" she replied. "Why he was a farmer. He owned 996 acres of land here in Mt. Tabor and he grew corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco, soybeans, and peanuts."

"Did he have animals here?" I asked.

"Yes. The homestead had chickens everywhere, horses, cows, hogs, mules, sheep, geese, even racoons. Daniel Davenport was a landowner from 1778 to 1808. He was one of the first senators from Washington County and represented our county

from 1803 to 1807 in the North Carolina Senate. He was reelected in 1807 but died before taking office in 1808. In 1815 his land was distributed among his five daughters — Priscilla Long, Nancy Bateman, Unice Arnold, Elizabeth Warrington, and Acenath Davenport. The one daughter, Acenath, married Alexander Davenport, and she inherited the tract of land that included this house. The descendants of Acenath and Alexander Davenport occupied the house continuously until 1975," Mrs. Haire stated, her mind intent upon the historical details in order to preserve the uniqueness of her Mt. Tabor roots.

"Who occupied this house last?" I asked as I tried to imagine one generation of Davenports following another, living as rooted to the dry, wide spaces of soil as much as to the cotton, corn, and tobacco.

"Oh, Harriet Davenport was the last descendant of Daniel Davenport to live in this house. She lived without plumbing or electricity until 1975," she declared, her head bobbing in an affirmative motion as the wind cut across the dusty fields.

"Was Miss Harriet unique?" I



The old Davenport house is the oldest house in the Creswell neighborhood.

cont....

wondered as Marjorie Phelps Ambrose approached.

"I knew Miss Harriet," volunteered Mrs. Ambrose. "Miss Harriet spent most of her time in the kitchen while the chickens would run in and out of the house. The kitchen was on the right, but it has been torn down. Miss Harriet was unique. She wore dresses down to the ankles. My mother would take her to the doctor. She died at 85," said Mrs. Ambrose.

"She wore her hair back, pulled it into a knot," added another Mt. Tabor church member.

"She made her own clothes until she died," noted Loretta Haire Phelps, the woman behind the Davenport Homestead project. Loretta Haire Phelps is a direct descendant of Acenath Davenport, one of Daniel Davenport's five daughters. "Miss Harriet cooked the best collards in the whole world. She had a wood stove, an iron pot, and a big iron skillet. She lived like it was the eighteenth century," declared Mrs. Phelps. "We've tried to show people how life was on the old homestead. Take a look at the loom, at the loft where the children slept, at all the artifacts. The Davenports have lived on this land for over 200 years," declared Loretta Phelps.

Her daughter Sandra Phelps graduated from Mount Olive College.

"Who were the last owners of the house?" I asked.

"Charlie Davenport and his wife, Lelia, were the last owners. They deeded the land and the house to the Historical Society of Washington County on the condition that it be restored to its early period. Our Historical Society got a grant to restore the house as a project for Washington County's



The Mount Tabor sign points the way to the Davenport Homestead off Highway 64 in Creswell, NC.

Bicentennial Celebration in December, 1999," explained Loretta Phelps.

"It's important to protect the history," said Rev. Parrish.

"It's important to protect the oldest house in our neighborhood," echoed Virginia Haire. "There have been five of these old houses in our neighborhood and they disappear if we are not careful," she warned.

"That's why we wanted to kick-off the opening of the Davenport Homestead with Levora's poems. Levora, known as Lee Davenport Witte in Lost Angeles, flew here to read some of her poems that recalled the Davenport days," added Loretta Phelps.

For more information contact Virginia Haire, Mount Tabor OFWB Church, Mt. Tabor Road, Creswell, NC 27928. Or contact Loretta Phelps at (252) 797-4336 or write to her at 2637 Mt. Tabor Road, Creswell, NC 27928.

## Youth Convention YFA Christian Writing Essay

### Hear My Prayer

An Original Christian Poem  
Fiction

by Carla Allen

YFA, Smyrna Original Free Will Baptist Church

She curled up in the silence, laid her hands beside  
her head,  
Sheltered from the darkness by the cover on her  
bed.

She wanted to fall asleep, but on this night instead  
She closed her eyes, began to pray, and this is what  
she said:

Lord, I pray for my family, and  
that we'll have enough to eat.

I pray for all of the lost souls, and  
for the people on the street.

And most of all I pray that you will  
get me through this night,

And let me open up my eyes to the morning light.

He lay there on the park bench, the wind and snow  
chilled the air.

He wondered why he was all alone, why life was  
so unfair.

The people continued to pass by, they didn't seem  
to care.

And as yet another person walked on by he uttered  
a silent prayer, He said:

Lord, I pray for all the others who  
are out here on this street

That we'll find some kind of shelter,  
and maybe something to eat.

I pray for all the families, warm  
and well fed in their homes.

And most of all, I just want to thank you  
for not leaving me all alone.

As He looked down from the Heavens, He said My  
children, can't you see

That all of you are cared for, though it seems so  
differently.

Try loving one another, instead of leaving each  
other alone,

For when you get to Heaven, all of My children  
will finally be home.

*But verily God hath heard me; he hath  
attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God,  
which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy  
from me (Psalm 66:19-20).*



# Youth Convention

## YFA Christian Writing Essay

### Why?

by Ashlea Meads

YFA, First Free Will Baptist Church of Tarboro

How many times have you asked the question "why?" I do not know about you, but it is a question that I have asked many times in my short lifetime. Sometimes we get an answer, but sometimes we do not. For a long time, I had one of those unanswered questions. I have often found myself asking God why bad things happened. I could never understand why my Granny had to die of something as horrible as cancer. She was a good person and a devoted Christian. She, in my opinion, did not deserve to go through all the pain. I could not even understand why God lets something like cancer exist, but I had to accept the fact that she was gone, and there was a reason why.

A couple of years ago, my uncle was diagnosed with cancer. When he was diagnosed, we were all devastated because he was not saved and wanted nothing to do with God. As his condition worsened, the family became more and more frightened that he would never give his life to Jesus. We all prayed for him constantly. When I went to Cragmont over the summer, we had a "girl talk," and they asked for prayer requests. I asked everyone to pray for my uncle, because I was afraid that he would not be saved in time. I know that all my Cragmont counselors and friends did pray for him; my Uncle Billy is in heaven with Jesus and my Granny! This just goes to show that God is on time, every time, like the song says. When he was saved, I knew the answer to my question. If cancer did not exist, my uncle might not have been saved. Uncle Billy knew that when Granny was suffering she never lost faith in God, and I honestly believe that is why he turned to God. He knew that if God was good enough for his mama, God was good enough for him. He had tried the doctors and tried the medicines, but he finally realized the only thing that could save him was God. Now, you may think that is the end of the story, but Praise God, it gets even better! Because Uncle Billy turned to God, so did his wife. As a matter of fact, she was saved in his bedroom so he could witness her salvation.

I now find it very difficult to hate this disease called cancer, for it has done so many good things in my life. Satan fought hard to get my Uncle Billy and Aunt Dean, but God prevailed, and Satan was once again defeated. So if you are wondering why things happen, be patient. God will reveal the answer to you when he knows you are ready. Just remember "...there is a time for every purpose and for every work." All things are possible with God, for He can change the worst situations to life-altering miracles!

### The Hikers' Quest for Eternal Life

Fiction

by Heather White

YFA, Hickory Chapel Free Will Baptist Church

It was a wonderful, bright fall morning in the mountains of North Carolina. The gang gathered at the creek bank for a hiking trip. For once they were all in agreement. They had decided the night before to begin their search for eternal life the next day. As usual, Feelings took charge and said they needed to get organized. Taking out a pad and pencil, he wrote down the names of the hiking gang just in case someone wandered off.

In his usual take charge way, Feelings gathered the excited crowd together. "Now we need to pick a leader," he announced. "We all know where we want to go, but I don't know how to get there. Who wants to be leader?" None of the others would volunteer, so Feelings nominated Fearful. "Come on! I know you can do it," he encouraged. "Just pick a path and lead us. It's not all that hard! At least try it!" Doubtfully, Fearful agreed to be the leader.

"Let's try this path over here," Fearful told the group pointing to a path on the right. Then he changed his mind and whimpered. "No. That one looks dark. Monsters live in the dark and I don't like monsters! How about the path through the field?" he suggested, and the group began to walk toward the cornfield.

Fearful continued, "Wait! If we go through the field, our shoes will get dirty. It just rained and puddles are every where. We are bound to step in the mud and then I'll have to wash my shoes again. I just washed my shoes. It took them three days to dry. The path over there is in the sun and it's not muddy." The group turned away from the field and headed for the sunny path.

"Hold on!" Fearful cried again.

"What now?" yelled other members of the gang.

"There is a HUGE ant hill in the middle of the path," he complained. "I'm not going down there! I can't stand ants."

The others began to mock Fearful and make fun of him. Feelings realized that Fearful was not a good leader, so he suggested, "Hey everybody! Fearful hasn't taken us any closer to eternal life than we were before. I think it is time to pick a new leader." Others in the group agreed, so Easily Led volunteered to be the leader.

"Okay folks. I like that path over yonder through the woods. The trees are so beautiful with the colorful leaves," Easily Led said with great confidence. With Easily Led leading the gang, they headed off in the forest looking at the brilliant leaves.

As they were walking along over the mountain, Easily Led

cont....

## The Hikers' Quest for Eternal Life, cont....

saw a garden of beautiful flowers to the left. "Look! Aren't those roses lovely? Let's go smell them." The group ran over to the garden.

Small screams escaped from the members of the group. Thorns were sticking in the fingers of the group members who were smelling the roses. Others were being chased by bees from the daisies. "Wait a minute. We chose you to be our leader and you got us hurt and chased by bees," Fearful complained. "What kind of leader are you?"

"Don't fuss at him! He didn't mean for us to get hurt. I think he is a good leader," Sincerity pleaded, coming to Easily Led's defense.

"I want a new leader." "Me too!" hurt voices from the crowd cried.

"Fine! If you don't want me to be your leader, that's just fine with me. You find your own way. I am going to stay right here and take a nap in this lovely garden." Easily Led protested before he stomped off to find a nice sunny spot to sleep.

"I'll be the leader if you want me to," came a small voice from the back of the group.

"Who said that?" asked Feelings.

"Me. My name is Good Works and I think I would be a good leader. I heard you can get to eternal life by doing good deeds. If you let me be the leader, I bet you'll be in eternal life by supper."

The group agreed to try Good Works as their leader. She led them on a path that looked long, but she assured them that the longer the path, the more people you could help as you traveled it.

After about an hour of hiking over mountains and climbing over fallen rocks, the group saw a baby bird who had fallen from his nest. Good Works insisted they should stop and help the poor bird. Soon the bird was able to fly on his own. The group decided to move on, but wait, what path were they on?

"Now you've gone and done it. You got us lost!" the group began to say.

"No I didn't. All we have to do is pick another path and follow it. We'll take...that one over there. It may look

steep, but we can help each other climb. That's a good deed," Good Works told the group. The others decided to follow her since she was the best leader they had had so far. They agreed it would be nice to help each other climb.

Not far down the road the gang came to a hurt rabbit. Its leg had been bitten by a mountain lion. "Oh you poor little thing. How could anything hurt something as cute and fuzzy as you?" Good Works asked the rabbit softly. The group again left the path to eternal life to help the hurt animal. They took bandages from their backpacks and wrapped his hurt leg. One of the other members of the group emptied his pack. Slowly and carefully Good Works laid the bunny in the backpack. Now they were ready to continue on the path.

Again they had forgotten which path they were on. "Okay. You had two chances and you blew them. It's time to get a new leader. You haven't taken us anywhere," Feelings started fussing at Good Works.

Sincerity defended Good Works by saying, "She tried her best and I think you should apologize, Feelings!" Feelings mumbled that he was sorry and Good Works agreed to resign as leader saying she was tired anyway. Church Membership was chosen as the new leader.

"I am a member of Pilgrimage Free Will Baptist Church," began Church Membership. "We all need to go to church. That is the only way to get to eternal life. Follow me! I see a church up ahead. If we go there, we are sure to get to eternal life. There is no better place to be with God than in His house." Thinking Church Membership knew what he was talking about, the group followed him to the church up ahead.

As they neared the building, they could hear people singing inside. Carefully and quietly they snuck into the church and sat on the back row. The Pastor preached his sermon and they all sang hymns together. At 12:30 they were dismissed. The group ate lunch under a big oak tree and then

took a nap.

That night after supper the group went back into the church. After singing songs and praying, the group realized they were no closer to eternal life than before.

"This is not working," said Feelings. "We aren't in eternal life yet and it is getting dark. On top of that, it's bedtime and we're miles from home. I thought we could be there by now."

As Feelings was groaning and complaining, the youth director from the church stepped from inside. Overhearing their complaints and failures, he interrupted them. "I understand you are having a problem in finding eternal life. My name is Faith in Jesus. My name tells you just what you need in order to have eternal life. You must have faith in Jesus. He came to this world and died for our sins. Now all you have to do is accept Him and believe in Him. If we ask him to forgive us for our sins, we will have eternal life." The group said they would try anything and turned their attention to Faith in Jesus.

"You need to pray to God that He will forgive you for the bad things you have done and ask Him to help you. He will if you ask. He tells us in Matthew 7:7-8 'Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.' You sought out to find eternal life. You have found the door and now you are standing before it. Knock in faith and it will be opened. He is standing on the other side waiting to open the door and receive you into His family. The last step is to ask Jesus into your heart."

Soon all the gang were kneeling and asking God to forgive them. Faith in Jesus was so happy at their decision that he jumped for joy. Happy tears came as one by one each asked Jesus into his heart. Now they saw the door to Heaven; the door to eternal life was open.



# CAMP VANDEMERE

OUR FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTER

## Windwalkers 1999

submitted by the Rev. Joe Ratcliff, Jr.

The theme for this year's Bible Explorer's Week at Camp Vandemere was "Windwalkers," and by the time our week was over on July 16 we were walking on air!

"Windwalkers" centered on the Holy Spirit — His work, His ministry, His infilling. We also taught in our classes about how to know the Spirit's guidance and how to use the power that He brings into our lives when we receive Christ. We based our week on Romans 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

When the Lord laid that theme on my heart last year, I wondered how in the world we could teach such a deep subject to youth? I discovered that finding material was difficult and that finding others that felt comfortable teaching about the Holy Spirit was somewhat difficult at first, as well. But what I discovered most was that I had to give the Spirit control and that He would work out the details, supply the materials, and encourage our staff.

What we witnessed was amazing! Over the years our attendance had been around forty-five to fifty, two weeks before camp we were at seventy-one. Our campers had come basically from a small group of our Free Will Baptist churches, but this year we had campers from the Christian, Independent Baptist, Catholic, Pentecostal Churches, as well as our churches. There were several that did not even go to church anywhere who heard of the camp and came to our week. We had one child sent to camp by a local hardware store and another sent by several in the school system.

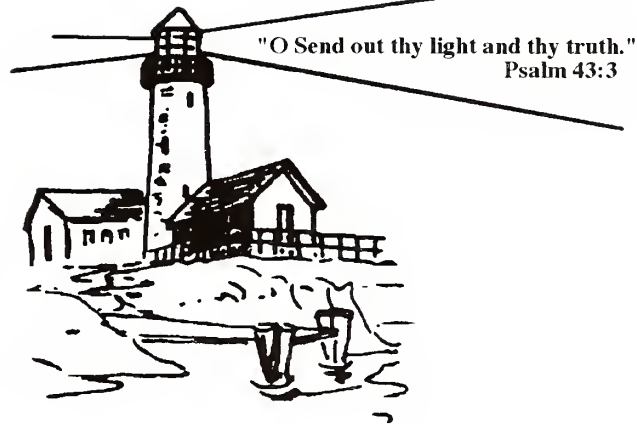
Things got pretty hectic when we discovered we had so many kids! I

felt sorry for Mr. Jerome Kite. He helps us each year by donating the wood crafts. In the heat he had to cut out 75 humming bird whirly-gigs. But God had brought us all together at camp and in our community, and the Holy Spirit began to take more and more control, especially as I began to get out of His way.

There is no way to describe how wonderfully and amazingly the Holy Spirit worked in those young people's hearts and in the hearts of our staff. But I would like to share with you several things that we witnessed.

On Monday night after chapel two young girls came forward and accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour. In all the years that I have worked at camps, I had never seen that. They are usually not comfortable so early in the week with the staff or the other campers, but they came. And something amazing happened to me. Instead of rushing up as the only "preacher" there, I looked at my counselors and motioned for them to come and speak with the young children. The Spirit just wanted me to back out of the way, and I did! I watched those two counselors talking with those children and I saw the Holy Spirit moving not only in the campers' lives but in the counselors' lives as well! There is such a wonderful feeling in leading someone to Christ!

Wednesday night is always special for us. It is dress-up night for chapel. It is our special church service and parents and churches are invited to join with us at Vandemere. Calls started pouring in from parents and



churches that wanted to come. We just about had the cafeteria full for that service. On Wednesday, over the last few years, a young man from our church, Joseph Brinkley, brings the message. Joseph is not yet 18. Sometimes, as we all do, he gets nervous in front of his peers. But as the Spirit takes over, he speaks from his heart. It is wonderful to see over the years how God has blessed him as he witnesses for Christ. Joseph has personally led scores of young people to Christ at school, at camp, and in the community. That should be a challenge to us all.

Six campers accepted Christ that night! Our visitors came up to pray with all the young people who came to the altar and several visitors also raised their hands for prayer for a closer walk with God. We had a group of five girls who had already accepted Christ so filled with the love of Christ and His blessed Spirit that they wanted to go off by themselves later during "snack time," and just study God's Word together and pray. It was wonderful to see young people turning down earthly food for spiritual food.

Friday morning during breakfast I asked for all that had made any commitment to Christ to come and let me know. Praise God, we had ten first time decisions for Christ and 13 rededications. I know at least one more who came in rededication after camp. The wonderful thing about camp to me is the fact that it takes us

cont....

## Windwalkers 1999, cont....

away from the world and allows us to concentrate on Christ. It allows the Holy Spirit to do His work unhindered by the things of this world.

When I was asked to write this article for Camp Vandemere for *The Free Will Baptist*, I thought about what I should say. I thought about all the fun that we had, and we did have a lot of fun. I thought about some of the silly things that happened, and there were some things that I will laugh about for years to come. I thought about those wonderful people who help make our camp a success, and we did have a wonderful staff; and Vandemere's staff was superb as well. I thought about the wonderful food and wonderful facilities, and they all were superb. But most of all I thought about our wonderful Holy Spirit and our blessed Saviour, and how amazing the grace that they bring truly is! As the Spirit led and Jesus saved we left that week truly walking on air, but more important, "walking in the Spirit," and realizing more and more how wonderful it is to be a child of the King!

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:14-17).

## Layman's League Dates to Remember

September 7	FWB Press Membership Meeting at First FWB Church, Ayden
September 11	Convention Choir Fest, Mount Olive College, area churches invited, 1-8 PM
September 13	Central Conference Layman's League, 7:00 PM meal; 7:45 PM business. Hosted by Rose of Sharon and Williamston First Free Will Baptist Churches. Being held at Williamston First, 102 Spruce Street, Williamston, NC.
September 14-16	FWB Convention, Mount Olive College, College Hall. Tuesday night, September 14 — Night of Evangelism, theme "A Call to the Harvest"
October 11	Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC.
November 5	State Layman's League Conference, 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business. Hosted by Friendship FWB Church, Farmville, NC.
November 15	Eastern Conference Layman's League, New Haven Free Will Baptist Church, 5 miles east of Hwy 17 on State Road 1003 (also known as the Aurora Road), Asken, NC. 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business.
December 2	Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC.
December 6	Central Conference Layman's League, 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business. Hosted by Rose Hill Free Will Baptist Church, on County Home Road, Greenville, NC.

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# DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

# MISSIONS



# RALLY

September 15, 1999

7:30 PM

College Hall, Mount Olive College

Program presented by the  
Board of Home Missions and Evangelism

## SPECIAL GUEST

The Rev. Norm Whan

He is the president and founder of Church Growth Development International and CANNING HUNGER, and the author of "The Phone's for You!" a program used by over ninety denominations to plant and grow nearly ten thousand churches in North America. In addition to his work in North America, he has trained over twenty-five thousand pastors and six continents from fifty-two different countries.

Norm and "The Phone's for You!" have been written about in hundreds of daily newspapers as well as *Time Magazine*, *Christianity Today*, *Ministries Today*, *Global Church Growth*, *Megatrends*, and many other national and international periodicals. His work has recently earned him a place in the prestigious "Who's Who in Religion."

Norm has also been honored by his inclusion in "Who's Who in America," "Who's Who in Leading American Executives," and "Men of Achievement."



The Rev. Norm Whan

### Additional Activities Include:

University Lecturer and Seminary Guest Instructor  
Board of Directors, Hospice Memorial Foundation  
Board of Advisors, Missions International  
Board of Directors, Church Growth Development International  
Member, Orange County Hunger Coalition  
Board of Director, World Focus

Also on the program:

Special Music by "The Lighthouse Singers"  
Special Program — The Harvest Connection  
Special Commissioning Service for the Rev. Wayne Watson

Bring  
Your Bible  
and a  
Friend!

Why not move your Wednesday evening service to College Hall and participate in this great rally.

**SPECIAL OFFERING:** Your special offering at this Mission Rally is vital for Home and Foreign Missions for the continued growth of your missions program. Begin to pray NOW and ask God what your contribution should be this year.



Director/Pastor Keith Pelletier has developed a strategic plan for the growth and establishment of Sunrise Landing Original Free Will Baptist Mission/Church. The following is a sample of an article that will be used in their ministry area:



*The Rev. Keith Pelletier*

## *New Church Coming to Area*

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists has announced the establishment of a new Mission/Church to serve southern Currituck and northern Dare Counties. The new congregation will be based at the new Sunrise Landing area of Point Harbor, and will use the name "Sunrise Landing Free Will Baptist Church." Director/Pastor of the new congregation is the Rev. Keith Pelletier, who comments, "This is an exciting opportunity for us as Christian ministers. It's very much like the birth of a child. We're going to be a part of this church's first steps, its first words, its first laughter and its first tears. If there is someone in this community who wants to be part of the growth of a church from infancy to maturity, this is their chance."

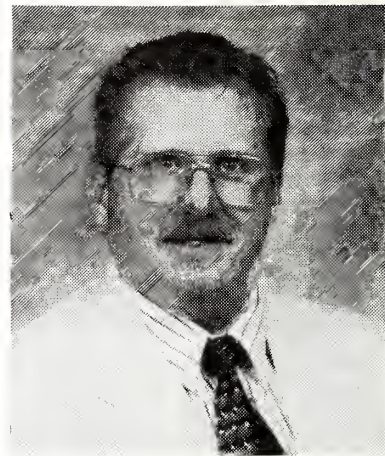
At this time, the church is beginning to introduce itself to the area. Pelletier says, "We are church planting in the truest sense of the phrase. We are making contacts here and will be building a congregation one person at a time." The Pelletiers live in Creswell, NC and will commute to this area to develop the ministry. The Rev. Pelletier is also employed as a teacher by Washington County Schools and his wife Shirley is WIC Director with the Bertie County Health Department. They have one son, Andrew, age two.

The opportunity to establish the new church grew out of the generosity of Mr. Julian Gallup, a native of Manteo, who now resides in Raleigh. According to Pelletier, Gallup saw the need for a new local church and donated three building lots in the new Sunrise Landing Development. "We are so thankful that Mr. Gallup saw a need and then acted upon his own convictions. His gift is going to make it possible for a ministry to grow here that will touch lives for a lifetime." Pelletier goes on to say "There are already several families in the area that are committed to this new ministry. Their interest is drawing attention and encouraging us."

More information can be obtained by directly contacting the Rev. Pelletier by phone 252-797-7601; Fax 252-797-7640; Email pelletier@coastalnet.com; or Home Missions and Evangelism, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, phone 252-746-4963.

## *New Board Member Welcomed*

The Rev. Lewis Forsythe was approved by the Convention Executive Committee to complete the unexpired term of Dr. A. Graham Lane of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism. Lewis is a member of and represents the Eastern Conference. He has served in several capacities in Home Missions Ministry: Silver Creek, Whiteville, H'mong Youth Camp, Workshops for H'mong pastors and wives, and worship services in California. He is currently pastor of Stony Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church at Middlesex, NC. We welcome Lewis and look forward to his serving the Lord and Original Free Will Baptists.



*The Rev. Lewis Forsythe, now serving on the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism representing Eastern Conference (pictured right).*

## *Mooresville Mission Update*

The Rev. Wayne Watson, newly appointed Home Missions Director/Pastor of the Mooresville Mission, reports that God is blessing the work. This summer the attendance has averaged in the thirties. In addition to their regular services, a one-day Saturday Vacation Bible School was held with 59 in attendance.



*1st Worship Service at Mooresville Mission with Missionary Wayne Watson, May 2, 1999.*



On the following Sunday eight students from the Vacation Bible School were in Sunday school. A baby dedication was held in August, and one young adult received Christ in an earlier service.

To God be the glory for this good report. Let us continue to pray for and support this new mission. It is their desire to reach out to the Mooresville region to be a lighthouse to show the way to Jesus Christ.



*Mooresville OFWB Mission,  
Mooresville, NC.*



*Home Missionary Rev. Wayne Watson preaching at Mooresville Mission.*

**MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE**

***Coming Events***

**Convention of Original Free Will Baptists**  
Tuesday-Thursday, September 14-16  
Mount Olive College campus

**Gary Barefoot Retirement Dinner** Saturday, September 18  
**Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

Gary Barefoot will be honored for 34 years of service as Director of Library Services at Mount Olive College. Dinner tickets are \$12.50. For more information or to order tickets, contact Office of Student Development, at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3080 by September 4.

**Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner** Saturday, September 25, 5:30 PM  
**Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

Mount Olive College is sponsoring a dinner to express its appreciation to the 1998-1999 Bridge Builders. For more information, contact Jean Ackiss, Director of Church Support at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3021.

**James A. Evans Lecture** Saturday, November 13, 9:00 AM  
**Rodgers Chapel**

The theme for the Sixth Annual James A. Evans Lecture is *Patterns for New Testament Evangelism*. Guest speaker is Dr. Bill Bennett, campus minister and professor at Wake Forest University. For more information, contact Dr. K. David Hines at (919) 658-2502 ext. 3021.

**Sunday Buffet** Sunday, 11:30 AM  
**Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

Mount Olive College invites you to our weekly Sunday Buffet. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 years old and under (includes tax, beverage, dessert).

***Mount Olive College  
Fall Semester  
Comes to Life***



A new harvest of students, as well as returning upperclassmen, started classes on Wednesday, August 25, 1999, at Mount Olive College. Freshmen were busily scurrying into the residence halls on Sunday, August 22, while most of the upperclassmen returned on Tuesday, August 24. To kick-off the new year, the Fall Convocation was held in Rodgers Chapel on Tuesday, August 31, with the Rev. Frank Harrison presiding. The College anticipates that this will be a record-breaking year for enrollment.

## Introductory Lecture for the Barrow Professor of Biblical Studies Dr. Lloyd R. Bailey, Sr.

Saturday, October 9, 1999  
Rodgers Chapel  
Mount Olive College



Dr. Lloyd R. Bailey, Sr.

**Studying and Proclaiming the Word in the New Millennium  
God and the Astronomers:  
"In the Beginning," Was There God or Hydrogen?**

### *Schedule of events...*

10:15 AM	Registration, Rodgers Chapel
10:45 AM	<b>Lecture One:</b> The Origin of the Universe According to Scientists
12:00 PM	Lunch, Lois K. Murphy Center (\$7.00)
1:15 PM	<b>Lecture Two:</b> The Origin of "All Things" According to Genesis One

### *About the program...*

These sessions will explain, in non-technical terms: 1) current ideas about how the universe came into being (from energy to matter) as proposed by modern cosmologists (astronomers); 2) relatively new scientific details of how the universe developed (against incalculable odds) so that life as we know it on the planet earth could exist, and thus how new "scientific" arguments for a Creator are being proposed; and 3) how the Bible's creation story (Genesis 1:2-4) was meant to be understood by its first audience.

The ultimate goal of the lectures is to obtain a clear understanding of the inspired and inspiring message of the Biblical text while we live in an age of science. The message of Genesis 1 for Christians and Jews today is an incredibly profound understanding of how we can keep our religious identity amidst the challenges and distractions of a materialistic and atheistic society.

### *About the Barrow Professor of Biblical Studies...*

Dr. Lloyd R. Bailey, Sr., is the newly appointed Barrow Professor of Biblical Studies at Mount Olive College. From 1971 until 1998 Bailey was Professor of Old Testament Studies at the Divinity School, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. He received his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from the Jewish Institute of Religion, Hebrew Union College. He is a graduate of Mars Hill College, Duke University, and Duke Divinity School. Prior to joining the faculty of the Divinity School, he served as a professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York. He is an ordained minister and has served as a pastor in the United Methodist Church.

A scholar of international reputation, he is the author of numerous books and articles. His books include *Where is Noah's Ark* (Abingdon Press) and *Biblical Perspective on Death* (Fortress Press). His work is included in the *Encyclopedia Americana* and *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. He also edited *The Word of God: A Guide to English Versions of the Bible*. He holds several professional memberships and remains active in the work of the North Carolina United Methodist Conference.

### *For additional information...*

Contact Dr. K. David Hines, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 (919-658-2502).



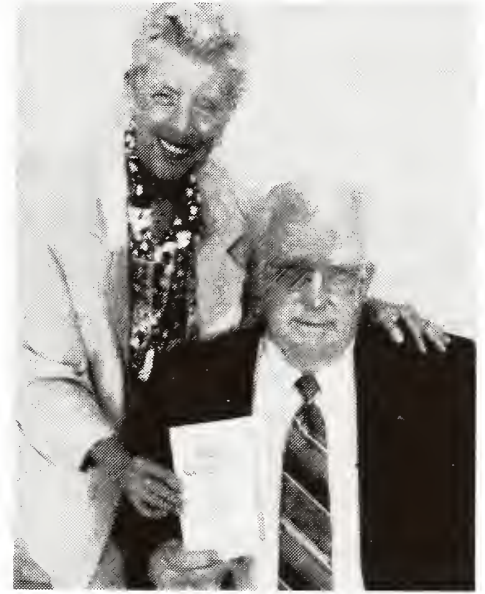
## Langley Provides First in MOC Press Series

Dr. Pepper Worthington (right), director of the Mount Olive College Press, congratulates the Rev. Robert Langley (seated) on his new book, *Bible Questions For All Ages*, published by Mount Olive College Press. The book has questions divided into two sections with no logical order but with a diversity of interest: Old Testament and New Testament.

Of his book, Mr. Langley said, "It is my hope that these questions will provide a format for people in the Free Will Baptist denomination to use as a way to bring both our youth and our adults closer to our Bible and, thereby, closer to our God who is from everlasting to everlasting." Mr. Langley is pastor of the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church of the Eastern Conference in Pamlico County.

Mr. Langley's book is the first in a new Mount Olive College Press series — the Free Will Baptist Outreach Series, and will be provided to all persons who make an unrestricted gift of \$100.00 or more at their county dinner this fall. The series has been established as a vehicle for Free Will Baptists to express their individual experiences through poetry, essays, fiction, and nonfiction.

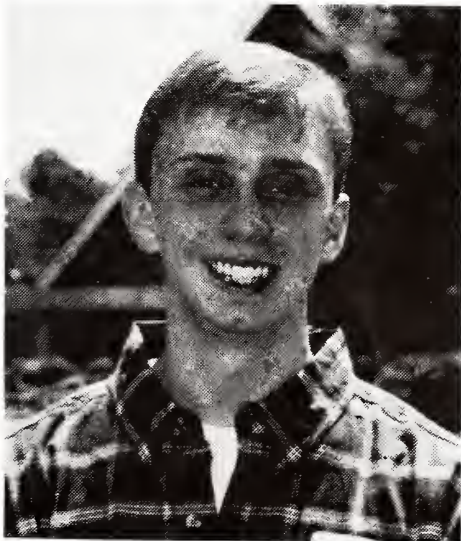
The Mount Olive College Press aspires as a regional press to encourage and advance the creativity of Free Will Baptists and to offer the possibility of publication of a rich Christian heritage. Hazel Phillips' poetry book, *To The Lighthouse*, is the Free Will Baptist Outreach Series selection for the year 2000.



Dr. Pepper Worthington (standing)  
with Mr. Robert Langley.

## Leading a Very Busy and Fulfilling Life at Mount Olive College

Josh Kriger, a rising senior at Mount Olive College, leads a very active life both on and off campus. He is a resident advisor, president of the Recreation Majors Club, and vice



Josh Kriger, a rising senior at Mount Olive College, leads a very active life both on and off campus.

president of the Free Will Baptist Fellowship. He is involved with Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Fellowship of Christian Students, and Phi Beta Lambda. Off-campus, Josh is a member of Riverside Free Will Baptist Church in Princeton, where his father, David, pastors. He serves as the Sunday school secretary and also sings in the choir. On weekends Josh works at Joyner's Grocery Store in Fremont.

Majoring in Sports Management with plans to also complete a two-year degree in Business Management, Josh carries a very full academic schedule as well. In fact, he plans to register for approximately 23 semester hours in the fall. With all of his activities, Josh still maintains a 3.4 grade point average. At the age of 21, one might ask how someone so young juggles such a busy schedule, but for Josh it all comes natural.

Josh chose Mount Olive College because of its Christian values and the many opportunities offered to

students. He likes being involved and he loves being around people. "I love people with character and personality, they make me laugh and feel good about myself," he notes, "and at Mount Olive College there are plenty of both."

On the outside, Josh is an easy going care-free young man that loves a good joke as much as the next person, but on the inside he is very serious by nature and has an extremely big heart. "I always try to treat people the way I want to be treated, that's my motto in life and one that I live by daily. I like to be there for my family and friends, because I know they are always there for me."

Josh has a very close relationship with his family and even though he lives on-campus, he travels home every weekend to spend time with his mother, father, and two younger brothers. Josh has a very special relationship with his mother, Louise, and feels she has been one of the

cont....

*Leading a Very Busy and Fulfilling Life at Mount Olive College, cont....*

biggest inspirations in his life. "She is always there for me. She knows my thoughts and moods. She understands me and challenges me. She helps me reach my goals," he expressed.

For his eighteenth birthday, Josh's mother planned the trip of his lifetime, carrying him to see his all-time favorite baseball team — the Cubs. He even had

the opportunity to meet Harry Caray, the famous radio announcer.

It is his love for sports that has led Josh to major in sports management, but it is his love for the Lord that he says will lead him to share his faith with others as he one day hopes to manage a major sports team. "I plan to use my career to witness to others in a

way that they will come to trust and depend on the Lord as much as I do," he concluded.

After graduating from Mount Olive College, Josh plans to pursue his master's degree. Josh will be the first member of the Kriger family to ever receive a four-year degree and the first to pursue a master's degree.

## **Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner**

**Mount Olive College • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**  
**Saturday, September 25, 1999 at 6:00 PM**

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir and Free Spirit, a vocal ensemble, will provide a 30-minute program of traditional and contemporary sacred selections. This concert is presented as a gesture of the College's gratitude to Free Will Baptists for their continued support. In seeing these young men and women, we hope that you will better understand the ministry of the College and feel that the College's service to young men and women is worthy of the Church's continued support.

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir provides Fall and Spring concerts. The Concert Choir and Free Spirit ministers to churches in the region as part of their music ministry. Dr. Alan Armstrong, Professor of Music, is the Choir Director.

While this event honors the 1,861 Bridge Builders from the 1998 church dinners, all friends of the College are invited. Bridge Builders, those who make an unrestricted gift of \$100 or more at their county dinners, have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Mount Olive College.



*The Mount Olive College Concert Choir*

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### **REPLY FORM**

(Please return by Tuesday, September 21, 1999)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 25, 1999.

There will be \_\_\_\_\_ in my party attending.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (including area code) \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail to: Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss  
Mount Olive College  
634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365  
(919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854  
(All friends of Mount Olive College are invited.)



## View From the Laundry Room

You see a great deal more from the Cragmont laundry room than mountains of towels and a spectacular view from the open door. You have the wonderful opportunity of seeing change: change within campers as they view their lives through God's expectations for them.

The picture from the laundry room was one of excitement in travel weary bodies with the arrival of the June Woman's conference. Tiredness slipped away with the refreshing breeze of Cragmont's rest. During the week between dryer loads, I viewed His glory in the voice of His servants. Through the teaching I saw eyes opened to a new view from an old lesson. So as I filled yet another load in the washer, I realized I had witnessed new commitment.

The scene from my laundry room was quite different the next Monday. From the gentle stately tread of women, my kaleidoscope moved to the racing, tireless energy of youth with Cragmont's brand new camp week. After the noise of fourth graders for a school year, I had the beautiful painting of Christian youth that spiced their language with "thank you." From behind my oversized, dirty-towel-collector trash can, I met God's children with their endearing smiles, contagious laughter, and sure confidence in sunshine coming tomorrow (even though it rained Tuesday and Wednesday). As I sat among my shelves of clean sheets waiting for the dryer to stop, there came (wafting) from the porch above another view of camp and campers. I heard part of the lesson on making right decisions and caught a glimpse of teenagers traveling the difficult, yet best, path. So once again, by way of Cragmont, God touched lives.

With another Monday came another panorama of all sizes and shapes of

youth as a seemingly never-ending swarm of screams of joy issued from the buses. Christian Cadet campers invaded the doors of my laundry domain clamoring for sheets and towels. As I contemplated the best way to rid a white towel of red clay stains, a counselor's voice broke into my thoughts. She spoke of witnessing in the workday and of not letting the world overwhelm your message of Jesus. It appeared she was a teacher in the public school system. She told with deep conviction of what she would do legally in the classroom to witness her faith. She spoke of the Bible on her desk and her right as an educator to discuss any topic her students introduced in her class including Christianity. She taught the lesson to use each opportunity to proclaim Christ.

The weekend sped by and Cragmont is invaded yet again, this time with the tones of the teenagers at YFA Conference. Throughout the week I repeatedly heard the message of praise and worship to Christ. With a reenactment of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem with palm branches, the message of praise to our King became a living picture.

AFC'ers introduced me to yet another vista of Cragmont. I saw them gathered around the campfire. I heard them eagerly ask what will be the next campfire story. I experienced the wonderful knowledge that you are never too young to commit your all to God. One campfire message was to pretend to put your treasures of this world into a small treasure chest and toss it into the fire. The campers were reminded that Christ is our greatest treasure and nothing should come before Him. A camper came to the fire and whispered in my ear the things she had placed in her chest (including her doll) because she knew her greatest treasure is Jesus.

Another roar of youth broke the monotonous drone of the dryers as General Youth Conference II arrived. Interwoven with the rhythmic slap of rocking chairs, I eavesdropped on a conversation on church responsibility. I listened as young and mature voices discussed how new ideas and dreams should be presented to a church. In my memory the ideas soon faded but the confidence in the church's response remained clear. A response of love that listens, adapts, molds, embraces, and teaches.

My summer in the laundry room closed with Young People's Bible Conference. Again and again I heard the phrase "God is good" and the response, "He is good all the time." wonderful lessons we should all remember.

A flood tide of campers that never seemed to end came to the laundry room door for a clean towel during General Youth Conference I. I rejoiced in their music that touched the spirit but my lasting memory is of the little girl that stopped to tell me about the week. I asked was she ready to go home. As she struggled with her answer, I realized she wanted to stay and to go. She told me of her wonderful time, of friends, and her decision of follow Christ.

I gazed on my beautiful Mountain View one last time for this summer and realized the view into the hearts of Cragmont campers is even lovelier as Christ shines through.

(Becky Jo Sumner, from Ahoskie, NC, a member of Hickory Chapel FWB Church and a fourth-grade teacher wrote this article. Becky Jo is known and loved by many Free Will Baptists is affectionately known as the "Cragmont Laundry Lady.")



# September

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SUN		MON		TUE	
29		30		31	1
5		6	Bible and Bookstores Open FWB Press Closed Headquarters Closed  <i>Labour Day</i>	7	FWB Press Membership Meeting at Ayden FWB Church, 10:00 AM
12		13	Central Conference Layman's League, 7:00 PM Meal 7:45 PM Business Rose of Sharon and Williamston First at Williamston	14	15 Sun 5:45 PM, M  Missi
Convention of Original Free V					
19		20		21	22
26		27		28	29



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	THU	FRI	SAT
	2	3	4
	9	10	11 Mount Olive College Choir Festival, 1-8 PM
ool Banquet ive College — 7:30 PM	16	17	18 Retirement Dinner for Gary Barefoot Mount Olive College
ptist — Mount Olive College			
	23	24	25 Bridge Builders Dinner Mount Olive College 5:30 PM
	30	1	2

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

## Alumni Homecoming



Dr. Deborah King,  
Homcoming 1999.

Free Will Baptist Children's Home Alumni and their families enjoyed a pleasant, but wet, Sunday at the Children's Home on July 11, 1999. The Alumni reunion was filled with good fellowship, fun, delicious food, laughter, tears, and warm embraces as many returned to celebrate the 53rd annual event. Festivities began Saturday night, July 10, at the home of Billy and Mary Hines of Wilson. (Billy is a former resident of the Children's Home.) There were a few Alumni who resided out of state, but came back to visit with old friends and family. On Sunday, Mr. Randy Faircloth, Alumni President, began the service by welcoming everyone. Special music was presented by Ms. JoEtta Goff, also a former resident. Mrs. Rose Raper graced us with her talents at the piano and Dr. Burkette Raper, former resident, gave the Memorial Report and touched on the lives of those who have passed away during the previous year. The keynote speaker was Dr. Deborah H. King, whose message on motivation, endurance, perseverance, and courage touched each of us (ref: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27). Dr. Deborah King shared experiences in life and challenged everyone to be a

"Gimper" — one who aspires to excel to be different. Believe that there is more in life for you, face adversity and have courage. We can be winners! The Alumni ended the day by providing the children with balloons to release, labeled with the FWB Children's Home tags. Watching the Alumni exchange hugs, days of the past, laughter, and tears made all of us proud to be a part of a home that provides children with resources to deal with their emotional and physical pain, and come to grips with the child within. We would like to thank everyone for helping make this year an enjoyable one, especially Dr. Deborah King for helping each of us feel very special!



Mrs. Sudie Mixon, Alumni and staff



53rd Annual Alumni Homecoming



Homecoming July 11, 1999

## Residents Enjoy Trip to Charlotte

The Charlotte Sting treated the children to their first WNBA basketball game at the Charlotte Coliseum. All residents were excited that they were able to travel that far together and especially to ride an air-conditioned bus. After asking the children what they enjoyed the most about their July 19 trip, I received answers such as — "I loved the bus ride," "I liked everyone traveling together," "I loved being on the bus for many hours," "I liked the basketball game," "I liked stopping to eat somewhere new," and "I loved it all, Thanks!"

Yes, Thanks!



Trip to Charlotte, July 19, 1999.



Mark your Calendars!  
 Friends of Children Day  
 November 20, 1999  
 Free Will Baptist  
 Children's Home Campus

**We are in need of  
 church directories or  
 mailing lists  
 to update our files.  
 HELP!**

### *Items in Need List:*

- ♥ Paper Products
- ♥ Personal Care Items
- ♥ Parament Set
- ♥ Teen Bibles and Teen Devotional Bibles
- ♥ VCR and TV
- ♥ Playstations
- ♥ Microwaves
- ♥ Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5000)
- ♥ Carpet Cleaning Machine
- ♥ Cordless Telephones
- ♥ Christmas Decorations (No Trees)
- ♥ Kitchen Accessories for Cottages

A Special Thank You  
 to everyone who participated in our  
 "Change for Children"  
 campaign.  
 \$34,000.00

## *News from Balacan Free Will Baptist Church Brooke's Point, Palawan, Philippines*

by Pastor Eder Peralta

The Great Commission must continue.

Our prayer is to see that people come to God for repentance and in full surrender to Him. Since the work of the Lord began, our goal is to baptize new believers every two months.

The last few months we baptized six persons and now they are regular church members and in active participation in all activities. Some of these were the result of Bayanihan Evangelism.

Last July 4, 1999, we baptized eight new believers. These eight believers now are in the process of growing. We help them to grow and teach them to observe what God had commanded us to do, so they can bring others also to Christ.

Our Learning Center continues to minister to the children as our tool to evangelize the unbelieving parents. We praise God that through this program many parents hear the Word of God and some are converted to faith in Jesus Christ.



Seen in the picture is the induction program of the parents and young people who accepted their duties and responsibilities, and also were elected and inducted.

Let's pray for this ministry.

## Newsletter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We thank you all with praises to our Lord for all the prayer support you have given to us and to our ministry. Problems are not always easily solved, but the presence of the Lord gives the right views and strength, so that our sorrows were not overwhelming us. The love of the Lord is what counts. We are sure that your prayers were an important asset to that. It has been an emotional time in the Balkans during the NATO activities in Kosovo and Yugoslavia. Many Bulgarians had mixed political feelings during this time. And it was not always easy to formulate the right personal views on the war matters. Wars do not solve problems.

We are thankful that the work shows progress in the center of Varna. Kosta has begun with his ministry among the street children. They often are in danger of criminal activities and dope affairs. They don't go to school and have little contact with their parents. Every day they meet in a former cheese shop which we hire. At this moment it is really hot in the city and Kosta takes all the kids to the beach.

The actual work is done by Christine the wife of Kosta and by Zlatka, the wife of Todor. They both have families and they care with understanding about the troubles these children are in. Kosta and Todor are leading Bible studies in the house of Todor. Both of them serve in faithfulness and openness.

The majority of the people who attend the meetings were never regular in contact with believers. They were very enthusiastic and showed interest in the Biblical message. First they met every evening, sometimes up to one o'clock after midnight. They have experienced the peace which the Lord provides to them in prayer and worship. At that time most of the men were still unemployed. Now they meet four times per week.

It is a growing group of people who need space to meet. Now they are cramped together in a small living room with often 15 to 20 people. Please, pray for this situation. Pray also for Kiril who still has problems in the Rodope Mountains. The people there are difficult to approach, but he doesn't want to give up because he met some young people who are interested in the Biblical message of Salvation.

Tezdjan is doing fine with "her" children and youth. She always says: "I love the Lord and I love to work for Him." She has many activities and responsibilities besides the work with the children. It is difficult for her to take a day off. She really needs that.

Lydia is doing a little better. This week she had a tooth extracted that bothered her for a long time. In general she

maintains a very good condition.

I feel improvement with my back every month. The healing progresses just as the surgeon expected. He has warned me that it will take about one year before I can carry something substantial again. But the pain which I suffered



Willem and Lydia

before is gone and I can still not find words good enough to express my thankfulness to the Lord.

The people of Agape in Skopje are very thankful for the support which you have provided for the refugees. They mainly take care for the needs of people who are suffering by lack of food and medications. They also try to find ways to reunite the men with their families. At the moment, they also have Serbian refugees who have lost their homes because the Albanian Kosovarians set their houses on fire when they returned to Kosovo. At the same time, there are many Albanian Kosovarians who refuse to return home, partly because their homes are destroyed and partly out of fear for the Serbs from Yugoslavia. They do not trust Molosovitch.

Most of the aid funds from our churches are distributed among Kosovarion believers who have lost everything. Evangelical pastors are made responsible for this support, which is provided in goods. The Rev. Micro Andreev at Skopje in Macedonia is very careful and works with volunteers from West Europe.

I ask you kindly to pray for the people who live in the Balkans. The NATO war has not solved the root of the problems. The greatest problem is hatred from the side of all ethnic groups. I heard an Albanian Kosovarion say: "Now we know for sure who our enemies are and they will meet us." This is the only problem — "nationalistic hatred." The problem begins in the schools where the children are still taught about the wars, about heroism under the oppression of the enemies.

If the people could understand a little of the words of Paul, which he wrote in Romans 12:9-21, then the world here could probably change. Views of revenge and wrath are tremendously strong in the Balkans. The tragedy is that there are so few people understanding the forgiving power of the Lord Almighty. How then can they understand the command to forgive one another. This message is totally rejected from all sides.



Please, pray for the nations in this part of the world. The economy of Bulgaria and Macedonia was improving because Yugoslavia had a progressing development. Bulgaria has a population of almost 9 million and Macedonia of almost 2 million. It is hard for those countries to come out of the valley of economic inflation and to climb the mountain to a better conjuncture. We are blessed to be able to minister here and to encourage the people also by showing a positive expectation in the present economical situation. Many people are still unemployed because the war damaged the sequence of development. Even the tourist industry suffered after the people of West Europe were warned by the traveling agencies that they could not guarantee optimal safety and service.

Here we are able to witness one certainty: "Jesus is Lord." In Him is our salvation. His promises shall be fulfilled. Praises be to the Holy Name of Jesus. Glory and Honor to our God Almighty and Father in Jesus Christ. The Lord calls us to witness for him and only him, with a heart full of compassion loaded with concern and the assurance of His perfect future. We pray weekly for you all during our meetings. We are very thankful for the faithfulness of the workers here.

Praise the Lord with us for the blessings we have received so abundantly. Receive the warm greetings from all of us here in East Europe.  
Willem and Lydia

## Annual Convention Missions Rally

The Annual Convention Missions Rally will be held on September 15, at 7:30 PM in College Hall. Please plan to attend and pray about the amount the Lord would have you, as an individual or a church, to give.

Thank you in advance for your generous response.

I hope all of you can attend; but if you cannot, you can mail your special offering to Board of Foreign Missions, Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. You will still receive credit for the Rally offering.

Remember: You must earmark your check for Foreign Missions or place it in a special Foreign Missions envelope. These will be sent to every pastor and supplied at the Rally.

Harold Jones  
Director/Treasurer  
Board of Foreign Missions

## People & Events

### Happenings throughout the Denomination

#### *Report from Powhatan*

submitted by Rita O. Jones

On Friday, July 2, three young ladies from Powhatan Original Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, attended the equestrian venue at the Special Olympics to support the athletes. They learned that applause might startle the horses, so "silent applause" is given for a performance by quietly waving hands in the air. Dani Allen, Crystal Guy, and Nikki Jones attended as "fans in the stands" at the James B. Hunt Horse Complex in Raleigh.

On July 14, the older youth at Powhatan Church took a trip to Kings Dominion for the day. It began with a 6:00 AM departure from the church in the pouring rain. The day was wonderful except that one of the group's chaperones fell while dismounting a hobby horse when her foot got caught in the stirrup. Thank goodness nothing was broken

cont....



*The young ladies at the World Special Olympics.*

# People & Events

## Happenings throughout the Denomination



*Report from Powhatan, cont....*



*The group on the church steps preparing to leave for Kings Dominion in the rain.*

when she saw a doctor, but she really gave everyone a scare. Thank you to all the adults who helped plan the day, drove and went with the group to give them an opportunity to take a fun trip together. A special thanks to Jewel Coats and Jackie Guy, Sunday school teachers of the group.

On July 15, a study course on facing trials was presented by the Woman's Auxiliary with Vicky Bagley giving her testimony. Groups in attendance included Everetts Chapel Free Will Baptist, Faith Bible Church, co-workers from Natvar Corporation (where Vicky had worked), and many of Vicky's own family members. She touched on the facts of her cancer. She had discovered the lump in 1991 and was diagnosed by her doctor in February of 1992, undergoing breast and lymph node surgery. The cancer came back in 1996 during the last Vacation Bible school in which she was able to work as a teacher. She said that was one of the things she missed — being able to work and do things with the youth.

The disease is now in her lungs, liver and brain. She chooses not to look at it as a death sentence. Only God knows when she will be taken home.

She warned us to be careful of what we pray for. She used to pray that she

would find some way of witnessing to others. Since she felt she couldn't sing, play an instrument, or use any other way of expressing to others how she loved God, she prayed that she would find some way to witness. Then came the cancer and now she reaches others through her testimony, Relay For Life, cards, etc.

The final question she asked was if each of us had peace in our lives. First, make sure you are a Christian. Then develop your faith through prayer and study of the Word. Finally, let the Holy Spirit be your "guidance system" to carry you through life's trials. She said that she went to pick out her casket yesterday. Her husband is having a difficult time dealing with what the doctors have told her, but she is at peace. She prays for her two boys to accept whatever her fate may be and let God "gird" them with the same loving arms with which He has held her for the past few years.

On July 21, Windi Pounds gave her testimony regarding the recent heart transplant she had to undergo at the University of Virginia hospital. She was told in April that she *must* get a new heart. She went to Virginia "expecting" a miracle. When word

came that there was a donor heart available and the transplant was done, one of her nurses put up a corrected sign on her door — "accepting" a miracle. She said the words that Jesus spoke to Peter inspired her before her surgery — "Peace, be still." She put her faith in God and felt at peace that everything would work out. She is doing well and is able to look after her active little girl again.

We appreciate these women sharing their inspiring testimonies of faith with us. Please continue to pray for both of them as well as their families.

Youth lock-ins were held for AFCs on July 23 and for YFAs on July 30. Our cherubs went to Chuck E. Cheese on Saturday, July 24. Our youth program now includes over 50 young people and we invite any others in the area to join us.

A special congratulations to youth member Daniel Bagley who recently pitched a no-hitter in his baseball league. His team won the regional tournament and is currently in the State Little League Championship play-offs in Edenton. Daniel was pictured on the front page of the local newspaper. He is the youngest son of Vicky and Tom Bagley.

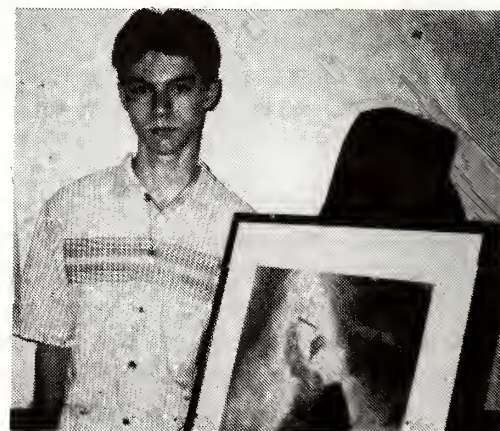
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## Winner in Arts Competition

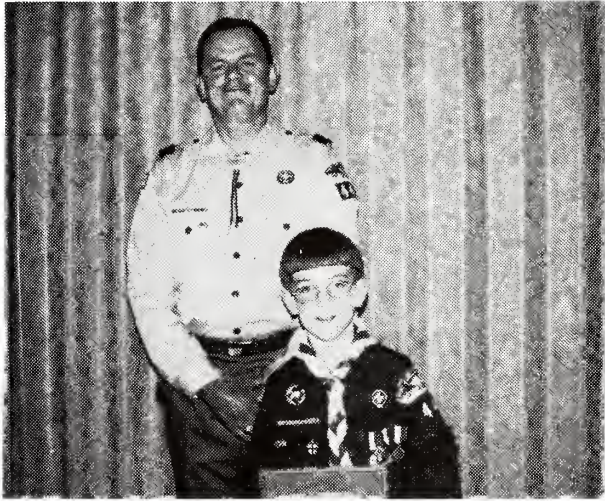
Pictured is Pat Noles of the Smyrna Original Free Will Baptist Church (Cape Fear Conference) with his original drawing of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments which won State Competition in the Cape Fear Youth Fellowship arts category.

Noles is a rising junior at South Johnston High School.





## Deep Run Youth Receives Scout Award



*Troy Smith with his father and  
Cubmaster, Greg Smith.*

The God and Country Award was received by Troy Smith, age 9, at Deep Run Original Free Will Baptist Church. Troy is the son of Greg and Sandy Smith, members of Deep Run OFWB Church. Troy has been a cub scout for three years and is currently a part of the Webelos group working toward his Arrow of Light award. Troy received the "God and Me" part of the God and Country series program. This program consists of three sections — section 1: "Me: The Story of My Life;" section 2: "God: The Story of Jesus' Life;" section 3: "God and Me: The story of Jesus and Me Together." The program stresses that when I do wrong, God will forgive me, and when things go right, I thank God, and when I am alone, God is with me. This part of the God and Country series is designed for boys who are in grades 1-3.

Pictured is Troy Smith with his father, Greg Smith, who is also the chairman of the Board of Deacons at the Deep Run Church as well as the Assistant Cubmaster of Pack 447. Troy is a second generation Cub Scout at Pack 447. The church has had a scouting program for more than 35 years and Greg was a Cub Scout in the same program in the early days.

Deep Run Church would like to encourage every church in the denomination to consider the use of a scouting program to evangelize the community in which they live and work. Scouting is that one organization in the country that can and does emphasize the existence of God and the worship of God as a regular part of the scouting program.

## Cragmont Woman's Conference

August 2-7, 1999

by Mamie Dail

Some came by car, some by van, and some by bus to meet at Cragmont for a wonderful week of study, praise, worship and fun. As we arrived, we registered, were given our room numbers and had our luggage taken to our rooms. After a little unpacking, we were ready for the front porch and rocking chairs. Six o'clock was our first official Cragmont meal. After supper we gathered in the chapel to get our week started with a welcome by Donna Holland, director. Psalm 121 was read by May Pittman, registrar. Announcements were made and we were given our schedule for the week. We had ninety-one registered, ages 19 to 90. May helped us to meet new friends by giving us a list of things we had done and we had to try to find someone who had done one of these things within the last week. This getting acquainted is always a fun time. After prayer for strength for the week, we are ready to get to our rooms and a good night's rest.



*Donna Holland, Director*

Each morning at seven forty-five we met in the chapel to start our day with a song in our hearts and a devotion. Connie Stanley lead the devotion each morning. On Tuesday, Connie used Psalm 9:1 to remind us that we needed to be whole heartily devoted to God.

Breakfast was at eight each morning, Tuesday through Friday. We did a lot of talking as we went through the line to get our food and gather around the tables to enjoy both the food and the fellowship.



*Janet Brown, speaker of the week.*

At nine-thirty we were back in the chapel to sing unto the Lord with Alma Dale Cox as our song leader. JoAnn Parrish played the piano and Kerrie Clayton played the organ. We did this again at eleven while having a break in our Bible study.

cont....



# People & Events

*Cragmont Woman's Conference, cont....*



*Relaxing on the porch*

Bible study was at nine forty-five and again at eleven-fifteen. Janet Brown, our speaker for the week, used "Cultivating the Master's Garden" as her theme. As theme verses, she used 2 Timothy 2:15 and Galatians 5:22-23. Using Genesis 1:26, Janet shared with us the importance of study and that we should strive to be our best. She compared our work to the seasons; winter to prepare, spring to plant, summer to cultivate, and fall to reap the harvest. On our work packets were pictures of different fruits. She asked us to find someone with the same fruit as ours and share our interests with that person. We shared our findings with the group. After prayer we are back in the dining hall for lunch at twelve.

Afternoons were time for



*JoAnn Parrish at the piano and Kerrie Clayton at the organ.*

adventure. There was a bus waiting at one o'clock for the afternoon trips. Tuesday was time to go to Bon Worth and back to Black Mountain for ice cream. Wednesday was big-trip day-off to Pigeon Forge for shopping and a show at the "Southern Nights Music Theater." This was a show of music and comedy. Thursday was shopping at the Asheville Mall or Hamricks and the Farmer's Market.

On Wednesday, Connie used Matthew 6:6-13 to share thoughts



*Connie Stanley — Devotions*

about prayer. She reminded us that we should pray in secret and that God speaks through us.

On this day, Janet talked about the parable of the sower and the seed from Matthew 13:3-9 telling us that we should plan, prepare and pray.

Thursday morning's theme was "The Light of the World" from Matthew 5:16. Connie used the word SHARES to remind us that: S-stands for skills, H-harmony, A-attentiveness, R-respect, E-encouragement, and S-spiritual support. Let our light shine for God. He uses simple things.

Janet used Scriptures from

Matthew, John, Psalms, and Proverbs to talk about the fruits of the spirit.

With "scars" as her topic and John 20:24-29 as her text on Friday morning, Connie had more good news to share, reminding us that sin leaves scars on our hearts. "As with scars, we try to cover up the sins we have in our lives. Only the blood of Jesus can cover them. Doubt can be useful if we use it to find the answers to what we believe."

Janet shared Scriptures from Psalms, Proverbs, 2 Peter, Colossians, and James to continue with her thoughts on the fruits of the Spirit.

Teresa Grubbs led us in our self-study Bible time. On Tuesday night we talked about Jericho and Zacchaeus' relationship with Jesus. Bethany was our place for study on Wednesday night as we shared thoughts about the supper that Jesus had in the home of the leper, and Mary anointing the feet of Jesus with the expensive perfume. The place was Emmaus on Thursday. The walk to Emmaus and the conversation of Jesus with the two travelers were the events discussed.

Sandra Jones used a penny to talk about our relationship with God for Vespers on Thursday night. Vespers closed with a solo by Kerrie Clayton, "Each One Reach One."

We always look forward to Friday night when Harold Jones comes with a message on missions. With



*Harold Jones, All About Missions*



## Cragmont Woman's Conference, cont....



*During study in the Chapel.*

\$2,027.00, for Missions \$1,759.00, and for chairs \$2,231.00. We also left a tip for the great kitchen crew.

After all is said and done, Saturday came and it was time to head for home. At six forty-five we gathered in the chapel for our song in our hearts and the devotion. Proverbs 18:24 was used to remind of us "Friendship for a Lifetime." Connie talked about the right kind of



*Minnie Pearl at fun time.*

friendship and the responsibility that goes with it. Matthew 13:1-9; 18:24 for the Scripture, he continued with the thought of "Cultivating the Master's Garden." Harold spoke of the great need to reach others, those who have not heard the gospel.

After breakfast at seven, we were on the road again to see those we had left at home. Our thanks go out to all of the staff members for making this a week to remember and to the kitchen crew for the fine job of keeping our weight up. Thanks again to all.

On Wednesday night, John Williams, manager of Cragmont Assembly, gave us an update on the happenings at the Assembly. With Mark 10:17-22 as his text, he talked about stewardship. He stated that the summer youth camps had been very fruitful, that the camp has needs and dreams that we would like to have met. Our project was to help with chairs for the chapel. The cost is fifty dollars per chair and we would like to have four hundred. Any help would be appreciated.

Our thanks go out to all of the staff members for making this a week to remember and to the kitchen crew for the fine job of keeping our weight up. Thanks again to all.

Friday afternoon at three o'clock was fun time. And did we have fun with a fashion show, skits, music, and a visit from Minnie Pearl.

Special music was presented throughout the week by Cathy Creech and Faye Smith, Alma Dale Cox and John Williams, Lou Ellen Parker, May Pittman, Donna Holland, Kerrie Clayton, Judy Cox, Joy Guthrie and the Macedonia Angels, Leah McGlohon, Sarah Windley, and Frances Phillips and Ruth Warrick. Kerrie Clayton played two solos on the flute.

We had three opportunities to share our monetary fruits during the week. Our offering for Cragmont was



*Enjoying a meal in the dining hall.*

## Minister Launches "Renewed Vision Ministries"

The Rev. Everette Harper, pastor of Union Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Plymouth, NC, has begun an outreach ministry entitled "Renewed Vision Ministries." Any church interested in learning more about this ministry, please contact the Rev. Harper by calling 252-791-0583.

As a part of this ministry, Rev. Harper has produced a gospel tape entitled, *On My Way to the Highest Hill*, which is also available in a CD. Three of the songs were written by Brother Harper. The price of each is: \$10.00 for the cassette, and \$12.00 for the CD. These are available at the Ayden Bible and Bookstores, or you may contact Rev. Harper at the above number.





## People & Events

### *A New Chapter for GYC-II*

For several years the General Youth Conference II at Cragmont has offered some workshops on different types of ministry in which young people can be involved. Classes in mime, drama, puppetry, and clowning have become a popular part of GYC-II's week of camp. Some of those who have participated in earlier camps are now doing workshops and leading youth in their own churches to be involved in some of same type of ministry.

This year we added a special class entitled, "Active Ministry." A limited number of campers were allowed to sign up for this class. They spent two days in training and discussion dealing with the different types of direct ministry that young people can be involved with in their local churches. On the third day of class, the group actually visited the Pediatric floor at Mission Memorial Hospital in Asheville and carried balloons to the patients. Each one of the campers felt that they had received so much more from the kids than they had given to them. Many of the parents expressed gratitude and offered encouragement to the group for what they were doing.

The theme for GYC-II for this year was "Choices," and

everyone felt that the Active Ministry workshop was a great choice in helping kids to be able to share the love of Christ in a very real way. GYC-II is one of two weeks of camp sponsored by the Free Will Baptist Sunday School Board.



*Kasey Britton from Hickory Grove and Mindy Churchill from St. Paul's Church visited with one of the kids at Mission Memorial Hospital.*

### *Free Union Free Will Baptist Church Honors Pastor*

The Rev. Harold Swinson, Pastor of Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pinetown, NC, was recently honored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the church with a brick inscribed with his name to be placed in the pathway in front of the newly renovated Pungo District Hospital, Belhaven, NC.

Participating in this ceremony were

Dr. Charles Boyette, The Honorable Mayor of Belhaven and Chief of Staff of Pungo District Hospital and Ms. Janet Arnold Credle, Director of the Pungo District Hospital Foundation. Representing the Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. Betty Whitley introduced the special guests, which also included Belinda and Dale Fawder. Mrs.

Fawder is Administrative Assistant to Tom Miller, Administrator of Pungo District Hospital.

Dr. Boyette expressed his sincere appreciation for the many hours of dedicated service Rev. Swinson has contributed to the Pastoral Service Department of Pungo District Hospital, of which Swinson currently is chairman.

As he presented Rev. Swinson with a pin depicting the town seal of Belhaven, Dr. Boyette spoke of the great contribution he had made in strengthening the relationship between the community, local churches, and the hospital as he helped build a "bridge of common ground" between them.

Ms. Credle, echoing Dr. Boyette's remarks, added her own appreciation for Rev. Swinson's caring attitude and friendly rapport with all the staff as he works to improve the services available for patients and families utilizing the hospital. In recognition of Mr. Swinson, Ms. Credle read the following tribute in his honor:

*"It is said that a man can be measured by the shadow he casts upon the wall of life. The person we wish to honor today portrays the reflection of a man kneeling to serve his family, church, and community. His hand is outstretched by the power of God, to help those he serves in the warmth of the sunlight or the*

*cont....*



*Pictured left to right: the Rev. Harold Swinson, Ms. Janet Arnold Credle, Dr. Charles Boyette, and Mrs. Betty Whitley.*



**Free Union Free Will Baptist Church Honors Pastor, cont....**

*coolness of the night.*

*Color, race, or creed never make him pause in his determination to assist any person he meets along his daily path. Given the task to serve by his Heavenly Father, this man tarries long after everyone else has given up on a difficult project as he endeavors to find a workable solution.*

*Weary given from the many sleepless nights spent in concern over the programs at the Pungo District Hospital, he plots and devises new methods to entice participation from the area pastors and their congregations. Though his hand may be busy in his everyday tasks, his mind is ever alert, forming new ideas to improve the quality of life for each person in this community. Although he is short in stature, he is strong of character and perseveres as long as there is hope.*

*Even though his birthplace was not Beaufort County, it is obvious that his heart has been transplanted within the fabric of the lives of everyone here. For this reason, it is our great privilege to present a brick in the pathway leading to the future of Pungo District Hospital, to Rev. Harold Swinson, pastor of Free Union Free Will Baptist Church." (The Ladies Auxiliary of Free Union Church).*

**GRUBBS FAMILY REVIVAL**

Beulaville Original Free Will Baptist Church, Beulaville, NC, is hosting a very special revival series later this month. Starting Sunday, September 6, the church will be holding the very first Grubbs Family Revival, with a different brother speaking each evening.

This remarkable family has touched our denomination in many ways and the church is honored to bring them together for this occasion. Several of the family members attended high school at East Duplin and several have pastored in the area. Chris Singleton, pastor of the church, recalled how the Grubbs family has been involved in his life even before he entered the ministry. He first encountered one of the members of the family when he visited Mount Olive College while still in high school. Later, through the college and Cragmont, he became close to several other members of the family. Today, like many within the denomination, he feels a kinship to the entire family.

The church invites everyone to join with them for this unique revival series. The service will start on Sunday evening at 5:30 with a special Cragmont GYC-II segment. Some of the kids from the St. Paul Free Will Baptist Church will participate in the service by sharing a praise routine that they performed at camp. The services will start at 7:30 PM, Monday through Thursday evenings. There will be special music and a nursery throughout the week.

**Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention**

Hosted by

**Mt. Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church  
Vandemere, North Carolina**

**September 18, 1999**

Theme: "Daily Crossbearing"

Scripture: "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

- 9:30 Registration
- 9:50 Music Medley ..... Mt. Zion FWB Church
- 10:00 Call to Order ..... Judith Kennedy, Vice President  
Sandy Plains FWB Church
- Prayer for Convention
- Hymn 188 ..... "At the Cross"
- Welcome ..... Beverly Holton, President  
Mt. Zion FWB Church
- Response ..... Adeline Gray  
West Side FWB Church
- Scripture/Prayer..... Jinny Conner  
Holly Springs
- Special Music..... Mt. Zion FWB Church
- 10:20 President's Remarks ..... Angie Piner  
Juniper Chapel FWB Church
- Business Session
- Secretary's Report
- Appointment of Committees
- Camp Vandemere Report ..... Julia Ann Gaskins
- Offering ..... Special Music  
Mt. Zion FWB Church
- Report of Denominational Ministries
- 11:10 Hymn 331 ..... "Room at the Cross"
- Worship Service ..... Julia Ann Gaskins  
St. Mary's FWB Church
- Hymn 385 ..... "Near the Cross"
- 12:05 Miscellaneous Business
- Treasurer's Report
- Committee Reports
- 12:30 Lunch Announcement
- Benediction ..... the Rev. Michael Quintas  
Mt. Zion FWB Church

Spring Convention

**MUSIC DIRECTOR** — Lisa Caroon

**PIANIST** — Lori Tilyndall

**USHERS**

Judy Thaanum, Lottie Caroon

Beverly Holton, Julia Voliva

# People & Events

## Central Conference Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Marlboro Free Will Baptist Church  
September 25, 1999

Theme: "The Freedom of Forgiveness"

Scripture: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).

### ORDER OF SERVICE

- 9:00 Registration  
9:30 Hymn ..... "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"  
Devotion ..... Amy Stokes  
Welcome ..... Dorothy Blair  
Response ..... Sarah Dixon  
President's Greeting ..... Joan Little  
Recognition Time  
Business  
Report from Church Ministries .....  
The Rev. David C. Hansley  
General Administrator  
10:30 Hymn ..... "Love Divine"  
Offering and Offertory Prayer  
Youth Report  
10:50 Break  
11:00 Business  
Special Music ..... Kim & Dawn Garner  
Memorial Service ..... Lucy Copeland  
11:50 Chorus ..... "God Is so Good"  
Message ..... Cynthia Mills  
Hymn ..... "Breathe on Me"  
12:30 Blessing and Benediction  
Lunch  
Song Leader ..... Leah McGlohon

## Western District

## Auxiliary Convention

Stony Hill Free Will Baptist Church  
October 6, 1999

Theme: "Foreign Missions"

Scripture: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nation, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19).

### ORDER OF SERVICE

- 9:00 Registration  
9:30 Hymn ..... "Jesus Saves"  
Devotion — Acts 26:17 ..... Bonnie Price  
Welcome ..... Shirley Forsythe  
President's Remarks ..... Betty Lynch  
9:50 Hymn ..... "Send The Light"  
Convention Offering  
Denominational Ministries and Youth Report  
10:40 Memorial Service ..... Donna Holland  
Business Session  
11:15 Break  
11:30 Hymn ..... "We've A Story to Tell to the Nations"  
Foreign Missions Offering  
Special Music  
Convention Message ..... Rev. Edmundo Gonzalez  
Benediction  
12:30 Lunch

## CHURCHES AND MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

Elm Grove FWB Church is seeking a Youth Minister. Contact the pastor, the Rev. Frankie Baggett, Phone 252-746-3534.

Free Union FWB Church, Snow Hill, is seeking a pastor. Please contact Jerry Cunningham, 252-747-8195.

## Bryan to Deliver Homecoming Message

The Rev. A. B. Bryan, a former pastor, will deliver the Homecoming Message at Smith's New Home Original Free Will Baptist Church, Deep Run, NC, on September 26, 1999. The day's activities will include Sunday school at 10:00 AM, morning worship at 11:00, and Homecoming lunch following the worship service.

The pastor, the Rev. Walter Sutton and the church, extend an invitation to all former pastors and former members to attend this Homecoming Service.



# CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning  
Free Union  
Free Will Baptist Church

Source: *The Title Page of the King James Version of the Bible*, 1611. A facsimile of the title page at the Newberry Library, Chicago. The facsimile, true to the original size of the 1611 edition (15 5/8 inches long and 9 7/8 inches wide), was given to the Rev. Warning by a teacher from Northwood Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

## Introduction

Last month we looked at the Christian art of the title page of the KJV of the Bible and we focused upon the top pediment. We noticed the symbolism of the apostle, the dove, the lamb, and the symbols of the creation and Yahweh. Now let us focus upon the lower section of the title page to understand and appreciate the Christian art of this 1611 edition which Original Free Will Baptists consider a standard for preaching and study.

## Artistic Style

The building form is continued in a decorative band that stretches at the top of the lower section (directly above the title of *The Holy Bible*). The decoration appears as a series of circular cartouches often used in seventeenth-century buildings to show the coat-of-arms or the nobility of the family who owned the building. These are the coat-of-arms of the apostles who have "owned up" to the structure of this building of faith and who, therefore, represent its trueness and its sureness. There are twelve circular cartouches, perhaps representing the twelve apostles.

The artistic style of the building form is continued below the decorative in the form of niches in which we see two figures, right and left. These figures are literally standing for their belief. They are like pillars of an ancient testimony.

## Symbolism

The two figures in the niches are symbolic of the Old Testament. On the left is Moses with the two tablets of the Ten Commandments in his right hand and the building staff which speaks of the promise of the new faith in his left hand. He is depicted in a seventeenth-century interpretation of Biblical dress in classical form. On the right is the high priest of the Hebrew faith, symbolizing the old law and old tradition. On his chest, bound with chain, is a breastplate decorated with twelve stones. We only see four, but the space gives room for twelve. These stones represent the twelve tribes of Israel. On his shoulders are the forms which hold small slips of paper that speak of reverencing God. In the Priest's left hand are two tools of the priestly office: the incense burner and the knife for sacrifice. Both of these figures in the niches represent the old way of receiving inspiration from God.

In the large center panel is shown the new way of faith to receive the inspiration, i.e., *The Holy Bible*, containing the Old Testament and the New Testament.

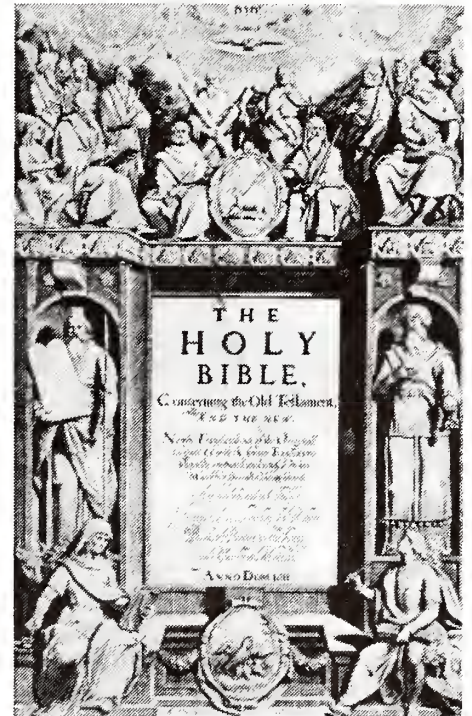
Seated at the base of the building art design, we see the two New Testament apostles. Both of those have a book in their hands. On the left, I believe is Mark with the ox behind his right shoulder. On the right, I believe is John with the eagle at his feet.

In the center is a second circular emblem, representing Christ as loving as the swan who is depicted with her young, for she plucks from her own breast the feathers to line her nest and if necessary in times of famine will feed her young with her own blood. Here we see her in the act of piercing her breast and plucking the down from it.

## Conclusion

The artist, an engraver, appears to be C. Boel in Richmond, a fact rarely mentioned, for the art and the artist are rarely credited. Perhaps it is a pity even that this splendid piece of Christian art as the title page of the 1611 KJV of the Bible has virtually disappeared. For lovers of this translation, this Christian art might be a treasure to clip and put in your own treasured KJV of the Bible.

Literally, in this Christian art building, the Old Testament supports the New Testament, but its foundation comes through to us through the written word.



# Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator



## *A Time of Harvest for America*

### *Some Harvest Indicators*



Many are sensing the extraordinary cultural factors that are creating an opportunity for spiritual harvest in our nation. As we have reflected on these dynamics, they fall into two categories, preparations within the church or the "harvest force" and a new openness outside the church, or the "harvest field."

Following are some of the indicators that give us a heightened sense of anticipation for unusual growth in the church over the next few years.

### **Inside the Church:**

1. **A growing spirit of prayer.** Ten years ago there were few local congregations with strong, multifaceted prayer ministries. Many churches had closed the door on the Wednesday night prayer meeting and had found little to replace it. A fascination with materials and methods had led to a shallowness in spiritual depth and power. Gradually, however, God has been calling His church in America back to prayer. This movement of prayer has many faces, pastor's prayer groups, prayer walks, evangelistic prayer cells, intercessory groups and many more. Many churches are incorporating more prayer into their worship services and many are committing to pray for spiritual awakening.

2. **A growing spirit of unity.** Many of us can remember recent periods in the history of the US church where division, not unity, was its hallmark. Denominational divisions were only eclipsed by the separation between evangelicals and charismatics. During the 1970s, churches divided and many new ones were born from the outgrowth of the Pentecostal renewal and the Jesus People movement. In recent years, however, God has been breaking down the walls of these various segments of Christianity. United worship opportunities, prayer meetings and evangelistic efforts have fueled this new trend for unity. Many long time observers now say that the spirit of unity is greater today than at anytime during their lifetime. In almost every city there is a diverse group of pastors meeting together for prayer on a regular basis. Surely this will continue to increase the spirit of unity in our cities and our nation.

3. **A growing spirit of reconciliation.** Past injustices have created deep scars, especially among our African

American and Native American communities. However, new efforts to identify those injustices and seek forgiveness and reconciliation have begun to bare fruit. Urban/suburban partnerships are growing up and more affluent churches are sharing resources with those churches of lesser means. Traditionally white organizations are beginning to hire people of color and training is being identified that will help groups of different color and background work together.

4. **National coalitions and partnerships.** In the past, evangelical Christians have united to defend a position or way of life. But now we are seeing national cooperative efforts in evangelism, communication and ministry. The new spirit of unity, coupled with new tools for communication and partnership help make it more feasible and effective to find ways for collaborative action. Mission America represents the best of this kind of coalition, with approximately 300 denominations and ministries working together for a cooperative effort to pray and share the gospel with each American.

### **Outside the Church:**

1. **A limited role for science.** Many have sensed a growing suspicion that science does not have all the answers. Increased interest in "spirituality" on all levels has reflected a mood to either stretch science into the realm of metaphysics or to accept science and metaphysics as dual partners in the total realm of reality.

2. **A questioning of materialism.** There seems to be a growing awareness that the pursuit of material goods does not bring personal satisfaction. Down-sizing and down



...dressing are key phrases of the 90s.

3. **Public witness of faith.** A growing number of committed Christians who have entered the public area are speaking out about their faith or using their platform to influence our culture. Television producers, key athletes, and many others are declaring their allegiance to the Lord.

4. **Faith and the news.** Major media conglomerates are increasingly willing to deal with spiritual topics including evangelical Christian topics. A recent look at *Time Magazine* stories showed that over one tenth for last year dealt with Christian issues.

5. **A willingness to listen.** An inductive educational model has created the willingness to listen to various presentations before making up one's mind. This is a two-edged sword. While most are more willing to listen without rejecting what we share, they are also less willing to make a commitment from one or two exposures to the gospel.

6. **The search for values.** Political figures have been inclined to side with the church in most cultural disputes although this has not necessarily been true of the judicial system. A growing desire to communicate values and build character has caused some political leaders to re-assess the Christian message and the Bible.

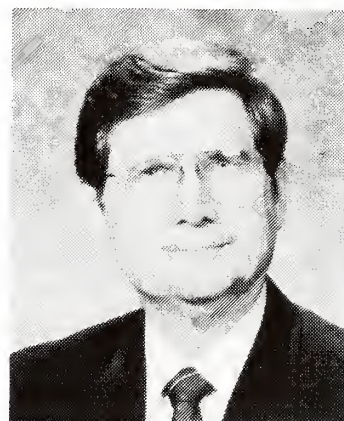
7. **Stress brings a search for stability.** Roller coaster stock market rides have increased anxiety and concern about our future economic stability. Downsizing and lay-offs have led to a lessening of self reliance. Change seems to be the only constant in some people's lives. Churches are responding by communicating that people can find peace and stability in Christ.

8. **Missionaries to America.** Internationalism has led to the importance of Christian influence from Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The importance and role of prayer has especially been enhanced by the examples and teaching of these third world missionaries to the US.

9. **Tools from technology.** World wide technology is creating unique opportunities to both unite the church and proclaim her message. Email, Web pages, along with mapping software, CD-ROM phone books, etc. are being used in creative ways to help the church fulfill her mission.

10. **Reduced crime rate linked to prayer and revival.** In spite of what we read or hear about crime, in a number of cities there has been a reduction of the crime rate. This reduction in the crime rate models that last time this has happened which was during the 2nd Great Awakening.

## NIGHT OF EVANGELISM



Dr. Larry Lewis

As the new millennium approaches, we find Original Free Will Baptists uniquely positioned for one of the most important efforts in the history of our church. We can play a key role in this most massive, intensive, and inclusive evangelistic outreach.

To learn how your church can participate in this endeavor for reaching your community for Christ and how to establish Lighthouses, you will need to make sure that your people *attend the 1999 Convention on September 14-16 at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, North Carolina.*

On Tuesday evening at 7:30 in College Hall, Dr. Larry Lewis, second to the staff of Mission America and National Facilitator for *Celebrate Jesus 2000*, will speak during our Night of Evangelism.

*Mission America* is a group of over 100 denominational and para ministry groups committed to support and participate in the vision of *Celebrate Jesus 2000*, with the goal "to pray for and share Christ with every person in America by year-end 2000 AD."

Please be reminded that we, as a denomination, have declared that we will participate.



# Convention Update

## 1999 Coming Events

October 2	Cape Fear District Woman's Auxiliary Convention
October 6	Western District Woman's Auxiliary Convention
October 6	Albemarle Conference
October 7	Albemarle District Woman's Auxiliary Convention
October 9	Pee Dee District Woman's Auxiliary Convention
October 10	Pastor Appreciation Sunday
October 14	Western Conference
October 15-16	Cragmont Club Weekend
October 16	Pee Dee Association
October 21	Eastern Conference
October 22-24	Cragmont Club Weekend
October 31	Daylight Savings, Set Clock Back 1 hour
November 4	Central Conference
November 5	Layman's League Convention
November 9	Cape Fear Conference, and Foreign Missions Board Meeting
November 13	Evans Lecture, Mount Olive College
November 16	Free Will Baptist Press Board Meeting
November 16	Retirement Homes Board Meeting
November 18	Children's Home Board Meeting
November 20	Friends of Children, Children's Home, Middlesex, NC
November 22	Examining Board for all Conferences, meeting at Mount Olive College
November 23	Founder's Day, Mount Olive College
November 25	Thanksgiving Day
November 26-28	Cragmont Board Meeting
December 3-5	Cragmont Christmas
December 23-27	Headquarters Closed
December 24	Bookstore Closed 2 PM
December 25	Bookstore Closed

## Convention Personalities

During the 1999 Convention to be held in College Hall at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, North Carolina, on September 14 through September 16, the following persons will be sharing as we gather for our eighty-seventh annual session.



*The Rev. Leon Grubbs*

The Rev. Leon Grubbs is president of the Convention and is pastor of the Hull Road Original Free Will Baptist Church of Snow Hill, North Carolina.



*Dr. Larry Lewis*

Dr. Larry Lewis is the National Facilitator for *Celebrate Jesus 2000* and will be speaking during our Night of Evangelism on Tuesday, September 14, 1999, and will deliver the keynote message on Wednesday morning, September 15, 1999.



*The Rev. Frank Harrison*

The Rev. Frank Harrison, Chaplain of Mount Olive College and a member of the Examining Board of the Cape Fear Conference, will deliver the message on Thursday morning, September 16, 1999.



*The Rev. Norm W. Whan*

The Rev. Norm W. Whan President/Founder of Canning Hunger will be speaking during Home Missions Service, Wednesday, 7:30 PM.





# Sunday School Charms

## Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth

### DIM THE LIGHTS — RAISE THE LEARNING

Marlene LeFever

Have you heard the quip, "We have done it wrong, but at least we've done it with conviction"? That line just might apply to how we've approached lighting and learning.

Calab hates to read. He uses both hands to hold up his book and drops his head down to book level so he forms a little cave around the book. He would have trouble counting the number of times his parents have told him to sit up straight, and let the light hit his book. "Calab, no wonder you can't read. You probably can't even see the words."

Sara will do just about anything not to have a class in room 204 including

dropping courses she knows she will need in college. She tells her parents, "I hate that room. I can't learn there."

Michael and his friends often talk about Mrs. Reimnitz, their Sunday school teacher. Second grader Michael says, "How old do you think she is? She must be one-hundred. She's nice, but I think she's going blind."

Each of these students has introduced a situation involving both lighting and learning.

#### Calab: Poor Reader

When we look at the important elements that affect learning, lighting is often overlooked. Just turn on the switch and that's all there is to it. Right?

Wrong — for many poor readers like Calab. As many as 11 percent of all our students will read and study better when the lights are dim. According to learning style researcher Rita Dunn, St. John University, New York, 85 percent of all poor readers need low light. The low light seems to help them block out their peripheral vision and concentrate on the words. When they study in bright light, they can not be as smart as they really are. When Calab makes his little cave, he is actually compensating for his need for low light. He knows he reads better in the cave, but he may not understand his need and he certainly doesn't know how to express it. If we think education is expensive, try ignorance.

Not all students who prefer dim lighting are poor readers. Many children make tents out of their bed sheets, and with a flashlight and

favorite book, create a space of wonder.

Teachers can respond to students' lighting needs by inserting low wattage bulbs or turning the lights off completely in one part of the room. Then, they should encourage the student to sit where they are most comfortable when a lot of reading is required.

#### Sara: Room Hater

Many of the children have difficulty with bright florescent lights, the type that Sara's school uses in windowless room 204. She is affected by the ultraviolet rays which are irritating to her, and if she is in the room for a long time, they actually give her a low grade headache.

Too many of our schools and churches continue to use florescent lighting because it is cost effective. When we create an atmosphere in which many of our students are not comfortable, we may have saved a few dollars, but at what cost? The younger the student, the more difficult the problem because they are unable to verbalize their feelings about the room. Sondra is only three and her Sunday school class meets in room 204. This little child who is developing her attitude toward church and Jesus, came up to her teacher and announced, "My stomach hurts when I'm here. Don't you feel it?"

Solving the fluorescent problem won't save the school any money, but it may save some of our children. Check with lighting companies for bulbs that use the same fixtures but do not emit the troubling rays.

cont....

### Convention Update



Make Your Home  
a Lighthouse

Prayer, Care, Share

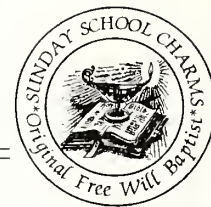
*"Shine out...like beacons of light,  
holding out...the Word of Life"*

Philippians 2: 13b, 16

Be a part of the  
Lighthouse Movement

# Sunday School Charms

## Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



DIM THE LIGHTS — RAISE THE LEARNING, cont...

### Poor Blind Mrs. Reimnitz

Michael is wrong about Mrs. Reimnitz' age and eyes! There is nothing wrong with his Sunday school teacher's eyes. But every three years we need statistically more light. So Mrs. Reimnitz's bright room would be more comfortable for Michael if he had dark glasses. Once Mrs. Reimnitz is aware of how her need differs from that of her young students, she will be able to put a very bright light near her and adjust the room lighting to the comfortable level of her elementary children.

### The More We Know...

The more we know about how God made our students, the more difficult our positions as teachers become. Be glad! We can teach so much more effectively than teachers in any other era.

Lighting certainly isn't our only new area of consideration. Did you know...

- Some students need sound while they are studying. Without noise, they hear non-sounds, like people hearing sounds in the quiet night that keep them from sleeping. The "quiet" is a loud distorter that keeps them from learning.
- Some students work best at desks, but a surprising number learn best when they are allowed to spread out on rugs and couches. The need for informal room design increases during adolescence. One researcher discovered that when students who need informal design had their needs met, they tested 29 percent higher than when they were in a formal setting.
- Most students have a best time of day, and that time changes as they grow up. For example, 28 percent of elementary students are early morning people. Most are at high energy levels between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.
- Some students actually need to eat or chew gum in order to get their best grades. Why? We don't know for certain, but perhaps chewing is one of the body's adaptive strategies for increasing the arousal level of the neural system to help us focus on a task.

Knowing how children learn best will require some rethinking of how we teach. The challenge: It's high time we taught students the way God made them, not the way we used to think He made them, and certainly not the way we wish He had made them!

Marlene LeFever, Director of Church Relations for David C. Cook Church Ministries, is the author of *Creative Teaching Methods* (Cook) and *Learning Styles* (Cook). Each year she speaks to approximately 20,000 school and Sunday school teachers in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

## Salvation Stories

Stories told to Marlene LeFever

### Panic

I was panicked when I led six-year-old Katie to Jesus. I'd never done it before. Later, I shared what had happened with the other teachers. One Sunday the fourth-grade teacher pulled me out of my class to pray with a girl who wanted to make a commitment. The teacher said, "I've never done this before. I'm scared to death." With my one experience, I was the expert. I talked with the child and the teacher listened to every word. Later she said, "I'll know what to do next time." My prayer is that every teacher will experience the panic and joy of leading a child to Christ. *Wawaka, Indiana*

### Celebrate First Steps

I was driving my young teen youth group home from a party. One kid asked, "Do you read the Bible?" When I said yes, he and all his friends announced that they did, too. "How long do you read?" they asked. I gave an approximation, and every one of them said that was about how long he read, too. "Do you pray?" "How long do you pray?" With every question, these kids told me that they were matching and outdoing me. I knew they weren't Christians, and if they prayed, their prayers were in the "Help quick!" category. It was important for them to impress me and to talk out what it means to be a Christian. These tough youngsters were using this talking step to move them closer to a flying spiritual leap! — *London, England*

### Evangelist

We call our youngest son Joey "Our Little Evangelist." One of his favorite games is to play Sunday school, using the kid across the street as his only student. Would you believe the game turned serious, and Joey actually led his friend to Jesus! — *Atascadero, California*

*From the Christian education affirmation newsletter, Teacher Touch, published by David C. Cook Church Ministries. Used by permission.*



# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Thomas à Kempis. *The Imitation of Christ* in *The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics*. Introduction by Timothy P. Weber. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

## Introduction

The Fourth Book of Thomas à Kempis's *The Imitation of Christ* discusses the spiritual preparation for Holy Communion much in the same way that Edward Taylor (1645–1729) deliberated in his seventeenth-century poetry. To draw near to God is not easy.

Thomas cries, "How shall I bring Thee within my house, seeing that I so often have sinned in Thy most loving sight?" (534).

## Contemplation of Holy Men

To draw closer to God, Thomas believes he must contemplate the lives of holy men. Four men stand out in his mind: Noah, Moses, Solomon, and David. Thomas writes: "Behold, Noah, that just man, laboured for a hundred years in building the ark, that he might be saved with the few; and I, how shall I be able in one hour to prepare myself to receive the Builder of the world with reverence?" (535).

Of Moses, Thomas contemplates both "the tables of the law" and God who is "the Marker of the Law and the Giver of Life" (535). Thomas contemplates the seven years Solomon spent building "his magnificent temple to the praise" (535) of God. He thinks upon David dancing "before the Ark of God" (535). These contemplations prepare him for the Holy Communion.

## Man's Need for Holy Communion

Why do we need the Holy Communion? Thomas perceives our need as he speaks of the sick needing "the Healer," the thirsty needing "the Fountain of Life," the finite soul needing the "infinite goodness" of God, the sinner needing the "Saint of saints," the hungry needing the "living bread," and the ignorant needing the "truth" (537).

## Two Necessary Things

Thomas à Kempis sees the Holy Communion and the Bible as the two necessary things in this life. The Bible is a "lantern" to guide the feet while the Holy Communion refreshes the "soul" (547).

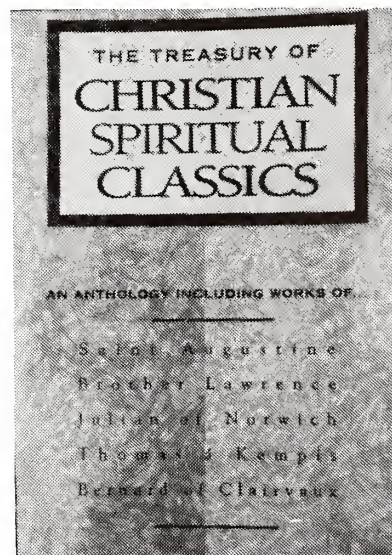
The Bible and Holy Communion are like two tables in a house: one table is the "Sacred Altar," the other table is "Divine Law" (547). Both of these tables must exist in the house (church) in order for the "lights of Paradise" (548) to feed us.

In order for the priest to be prepared to offer Holy Communion, the priest must remove himself: "Shut out the whole world, and all the throng of sins; sit as a sparrow alone upon the house-top, and think upon thy transgressions with bitterness of thy soul" (548).

## Conclusion

By imitating Christ, Thomas à Kempis hopes to "follow faith" and to experience God as "eternal and incomprehensible, and of infinite power" (554). The sweetness of peace will follow as the human vessel is filled with the grace of God.

*The Imitation of Christ* in *The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON



# 1999 CONVENTION



College Hall • Mount Olive College • Mount Olive, North Carolina  
September 14–16 (Tuesday, September 14 — Night of Evangelism)  
Theme: “A Call To The Harvest”  
(Please use for bulletin board in church or Sunday school class.)

## *The Free Will Baptist*

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# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



OCTOBER 1999

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*Featuring:*

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*I Am  
the Preacher*

.....  
*The Favor  
of the Father*

.....  
*Rescuing  
My Pastor*

.....  
*A Good  
Preacher*

.....  
*Forgiveness*





*C. H. Overman*

## Effective Leadership Qualities

In the previous two editorials, we have glimpsed back in time and recalled those persons who fulfilled leadership roles in our lives and we also took a look at the present status in the crisis of leadership. It is the qualities of leadership on which we will now focus.

Leaders are found in all levels of society. There are kings, monarchs, presidents, governors, industrial tycoons, etc., who fill the great and lofty echelons of government and society. There are also teachers, coaches, clergymen, parents, planners, and builders who faithfully and regularly fulfill their leadership roles without fanfare. There are also those who fall in between and below the others, taking charge because there's a job to be done, and then a time to move on to another.

The reality is that someone has to lead, and it is not because one decides to be a leader; circumstances often demand it. There are those who found themselves in the right place at the right time: Moses in the Plains of Median before the burning bush, Isaiah in the temple in the year that King Uzziah died, David tending his sheep, Matthew sitting at his tax collector's desk, and the thousands of others who accepted the challenge of leadership.

We often laud the famous leaders. While their influence may reach around the world and thus permeate societies, it is not as personal as the teacher who stands before the class day after day and year after year, molding and shaping young lives. And there are thousands upon thousands of others who fulfill the role of a leader.

Few of us are authorities on matters of leadership, but we know what we admire and respect in leaders and we know we can listen to them and follow them with little or no hesitation.

Effective leaders see beyond themselves. They think in terms of what they can do to help others, to improve and create change that will have its impact upon both present and future generations. They seek not their own exaltation, but the exalting of an idea, a cause, or a person they consider to be more important than themselves. So it was with John the Baptist when he said, in reference to himself in relation to Christ, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

An effective leader's aims/goals are definite and positive. Such an approach about life, as we have noted, is determined through the leadership and influence of others — those with goals and aims of their own, and thus instilled in the minds of others. Tragically, some political leaders do not always possess definite aims, goals, or moral character. They seem to "go with the flow," which is basically the same as being "...carried about with every wind of doctrine..." (Ephesians 4:14). We look for and expect positive and definite stands from our leaders in all aspects of leadership and especially relative to the conduct of life.

An effective leader does not allow his critics and opposition to stop him in his ultimate quest. When Jesus "set His face" to go to Jerusalem, nothing could stop Him from His objective — the Cross. There were obstacles along the way, but the Cross was ever before Him. Effective leaders press on, undaunted by the wavering and doubting crowds.

An effective leader possesses those qualities and virtues exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ and written in the Word and reflected in the lives of all His followers — namely, honesty (integrity), kindness (considerate of others, especially his/her associates), and patience. He also encourages others in their work, applauds them in their successes, is never envious, and is never vindictive toward those who may have disagreed with him.

Much, much more could be written on this subject. Scores of books are available. Each of us, however, already knows what we admire and respect in our leaders, whether nationally known or known only in a small area of this world. For each of us there are those persons who helped us to "set our course in life" because of their influence upon us.

In the Old Testament days of the prophets "...God sought for a man...that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me...but I found none" (Ezekiel 22:30). Who will be standing in the gap as we face the new millennium?



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## NEXT MONTH

*November is  
Children's Home  
Month*

*October is  
Minister's Program  
Month*

# I Am the Preacher

submitted by Ron Carlson

In 1660 Richard Baxter said, "I preach as never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men."

I am the preacher. Like you, another experiment in grace, a fellow-witness to the truth, a flesh and blood testimony to the goodness of God.

I have soup stains on my tie, razor nicks on my chin, mud on my boots, a song on my lips, and the joy of Jesus in my heart.

I am part poet, part mechanic, part soldier, part mother hen, and part badger.

I live in the shadow of the cross. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. I want to be a man of His word.

I am a purveyor of hope, a merchant of mercy, an advocate of agape, a fan of faith, and a sharer of the Good News.

I want to be better than I am. I want you to be better than you are. I want to reproduce Jesus in my life — and help you do the same. I want us both to live beyond human capabilities. I want us to be fueled by the Spirit.

I pray. I study. I wrestle with the text. I preach first to me.

I am a husband, a father, a son, a brother, a friend, a guy. I wear lots of hats. Some fit better than others. I have more good days than bad, but enough bad to relate. I believe

that all is well, whether I know it or not. I'm convinced that there is a better world coming. Thus I hope we can both live other-worldly now.

I comfort the afflicted and afflict the comforted. I would rather step on your toes than tickle your ears. I would rather you love me than like me. I want you to go to heaven, and I would love to join you. I want what is best for you — at times more than you do.

I'm concerned with character. Mine and yours. I promote a Christian worldview. I want us to be successful — in biblical terms. I am about the business of redefining the human experience. I want us to live the wisdom from above.

I seek to bring rhyme to reason and method to madness. I try to stir the soul, feed the mind, pry open the heart, and challenge the conscience.

I feel. I laugh. I cry. I wait. I hurt. I understand. I know. I care.

I encourage. I exhort. I rebuke. I teach. I model. I persevere. I pay attention. I serve. I nourish. I love.

The goal of my instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (1 Timothy 1:5).

I am the preacher.

— *Pulpit Helps*



# The Favor of the Father

by the Rev. Travis K. Sturgill

(Travis K. Sturgill is pastor of Zion Free Will Baptist Church, Blakely, Georgia.)

As Christians, we too often find ourselves in a state of forgetfulness. We remember our names, our date of birth, our social security numbers, and so on. Yet, when it comes to victorious living, Christian men and women forget who they are in Christ. God has not called us into a spirit of darkness, but rather into a spirit of brightness, joy, and eternal life. When Christ is accepted as personal Lord and Saviour, He enters into the life of the new believer. Salvation is the greatest gift one can receive, and by no means is it intended that salvation is to be made light of, but the blessings do not stop there. Once salvation is imparted by God through the atonement of Jesus Christ, the believer is bestowed with favor from God. This is an interesting concept which every Christian should understand.

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*We must resolve that we are children of the King, and that despite circumstances and situations we are victorious.*

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We are told in Proverbs 8:35, "For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD." Acceptance of Christ brings life, eternal life into the soul; but it also brings life in the present life. Having joy in this life seems difficult to some, but the latter part of this verse makes it clear that after being born again the believer also obtains God's favor. The favor of the Father is what we shall explore, and prayfully comprehend to the point of living joyfully on this earth.

Favor is defined in one of three ways, all of which are applicable to Christians. Favor is "a gracious act that is freely granted." By definition, the first favor of the Father that each Christian receives is salvation. It is the unmerited favor of God: grace. This act is freely granted to all who will believe on the name of Jesus and confess Him. Secondly, favor is "approval of." Herein we find the process of justification. Through repentance and faith one receives personal justification. In essence, Christ's atonement is the fundamental basis for redemption; yet through faith man is justified and finds peace with God. Justification is best defined by "playing" on the word itself, and deducting its meaning to be "just as if" I never sinned. God's approval is placed on our lives and we

are restored to the divine favor of God, being absolved from the guilt of sin. Thirdly, favor is "a state of being held in high regard; held in special standing." Sanctification is the setting apart of Christians by God to perform His work. Each born-again believer has been set aside by God to accomplish tasks for His glory, and for His eternal kingdom. Sanctification is the process by which God's grace continues in each individual life in order to produce growth. Growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ is not only a command, but an action. We must do our part to learn of the things of God, and to live according to the Scriptures. Doing this allows us to be held in high regard and in special standing with our Heavenly Father, and with those around us. Favor understood in this manner should be a revelation of excitement to every Christian. Not only are we saved by a gracious act that is freely granted and approved by God, we are also set apart and stand in high regard by the grantor of grace itself! It is therefore safe to conclude that many believers do not live a victorious life because they have forgotten who they are in Christ.

Each child of God is just that, a child of God. He becomes our Father and we should learn to live accordingly. There are always going to be trials and tribulations to endure, but focusing on the obstacles rather than the finish line is not the answer. We must resolve that we are children of the King, and that despite circumstances and situations we are victorious. Examine for a moment the lives of just a few people of the Bible who understood that they had favor with the Father. First, glimpse at Noah. In Genesis 6:8, we read that "...Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." This favor set Noah aside for a tremendous task. God instructed Noah to build the ark with which we are each undoubtedly familiar. However, examine the Scripture carefully. It had never rained on earth before, and Noah was out in the wilderness preaching about a coming flood, cont...

and building a boat! Noah was ridiculed, laughed at, and made fun of. He did not run, nor did he succumb to the endless tribulation placed before him. How did he do that? He realized and knew with certainty who he was. He had an all-knowing Father, with whom he had favor. Then turn your thoughts to young David standing before the Philistine giant, Goliath. Too young and small to adorn the armor of the king, David went before the opponent with just a sling and some smooth stones. The words of David should echo in our minds: "the battle's not mine, Lord, it's thine. I'm in your favor." Understanding who he was in God permitted David to defeat Goliath with the simple stone, cast from a sling. Victory does not depend upon the armor of the world, or the comfortable protections often made available to us; ultimately victory lies in believing the promises of the sovereign God with whom you have favor. Recall the three Hebrew children being cast into the fiery furnace. Within the walls of the hot furnace, the people saw not three men, but four in the flames, loose and walking around. The Father is still capable of walking in the flame, if we are capable of acknowledging His presence in our lives and living in His favor. The examples are endless, and I hope the concept is understood. These events are often heralded as great, or extraordinary, and justly so. But, what is stopping Christians from building arks, slaying giants, and walking in the fire today? The answer is simple; it is misguided mentality and forgetfulness. These men were just like men today. They lived in a society where Christianity was scorned and doing God's work was ridiculed. But they knew who they were! They stood up for their Father's will, and by doing so they were honored by their Father. They did not forget the promises, and stood faithfully on them. We need to do the same today, and victory will be produced.

Christians in our time in history discount themselves by not exercising their faith as did the individuals in the examples given above. Granted, they performed great feats, but you and I are promised in John 5 that through Jesus we are capable of greater works than these. We are capable of greater works! The disciples healed, and some of them raised

others from the dead, and we are capable of greater works? Examine the situation. Those who were healed did eventually die. Those who were resurrected from physical death eventually died again. The point is not to make light of these accomplishments, but rather to show each person that greater works are possible. Christians have the ability to introduce people to eternal healing and eternal life. Believers can do works today that are miraculous just as those performed in Bible days. We must realize that we are children of the King with whom we have favor. Knowing this will enable and empower each born-again Christian to lift up their heads and keep pressing on. We are more than conquerors; we are not defeated; we are ultimately victorious; but we are also victorious now if we live with the proper perspective.

You have favor with your Father. It is time to put away grief, strife, discouragement, and the spirit of bondage. Just as God gave Adam dominion over all living creatures, as children of the King, we have dominion over the things of this world. We must live through Christ and take back the joy and happiness that is often forfeited to Satan. You are someone; you are rich; you are a child of Almighty God; you have favor; and you are victorious. Why not live that way?

## *Rescuing My Pastor*

Joe McKeever

Recently I visited a Canadian family living temporarily in my town due to the husband's job. The wife told me she grew up in a church that her father pastored. I asked, "Is he still pastoring?" "No," she said. "The doctor said the stress was killing him — so now he's running a funeral home." We both laughed at what it implied: that running a mortuary is less stressful than pastoring a church.

Most people do not think of a pastor's life as particularly stressful. After all, what does he do but read his Bible and pray and preach once or twice a week...right?

Consider the expectations most pastors work under.

- The need to grow the church spiritually, numerically, and financially.

cont.



- The necessity of church programs for all age groups. He does it or sees that it gets done.
- The upkeep and care of all buildings and grounds.
- He preaches at least two or three sermons a week, and all of them must be winners.
- He visits the sick, counsels those in trouble, oversees the church office, holds weddings and funerals, goes to denominational meetings, and represents the church in the community.

He does all this and a hundred other jobs. But, it's the little things that are the preacher-killers. Things like:

- The anonymous note criticizing him when he's done his best.
- The family he cared for through a crisis moving their membership to another church without so much as a "thank you."
- The silence of church members when there's a motion on the floor to give him some time away, or a book allowance, or a needed raise.
- The criticism — never expressed to him directly but to everyone else within earshot — that "I was sick and he didn't even visit me."
- Mean-spiritedness in church business meetings in people who are supposed to be mature Christians.

Your pastor does not need sympathy. He does not need a "pastor appreciation day" with lemonade and handshakes or another plaque on the wall. What he needs and desperately craves is understanding and love and prayer. He needs you to do your job well, to be faithful. He needs you to attend church business meetings and to speak up. And if you think he's doing a good job, he'd a hundred times rather you would say it to another member or to someone in the community than to him personally. That way it blesses the work of the Lord, and when it eventually gets back to him, as it will, it carries a greater weight of authenticity. Then, it blesses him in a far greater proportion than if you had simply told him and let it go at that.

Elders who rule well, particularly those who preach and teach the Word, are worthy of twice the honor of any other leader. Paul said that in 1 Timothy 5:17. The pastors I know do not seek double the honor of anybody in the church or out of it. However, we in the church could easily give them twice the honor they have received heretofore without hurting ourselves, or corrupting them or coming close to meeting the standard of 1 Timothy 5:17.

— *Pulpit Helps*

## A Good Preacher

by Sarah Manning

*(Written in honor of the Rev. Tim Stout, pastor of White Oak Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church, Bailey, NC)*

Preachers here and preachers there  
Churches in this country everywhere.

Some preachers are fair and some are firey.  
Some short and plump and others tall and wirey.

But their appearance is not so vital.  
It's their words from God that give their title.

Men of God are what we need,  
So the Word, we can hear and heed.

A man who loves the Saviour  
and shows obedience in his behavior.

A man to shepherd the flock both night and day  
and still makes time with his family to pray.

A man to speak the Word to any  
whether he makes a million or not even a penny.

One who's the husband of only one dear wife  
and instructs his children from the Bible on life.

Who fervently prays for his congregation of saints.  
Who neither grows weary in well doing nor faints.

One who has a sense of humor and loves to play and  
joke.  
Who tirelessly memorizes Scripture to learn and quote.

No striker not given to filthy lucre or wine.  
A man of hospitality bidding men to come and dine.

A love of good men, temperate, just and holy.  
Not self-willed or a lover of himself solely.

And through sound doctrine exhort the sinner and  
convict  
those who seek their own gain and to contradict.

One who won't embarrass or make light for doing what  
they shouldn't or not doing what they might.

But kindly tell them the problem thereof  
by gently talking to them in love.

Oh where can we find this special man?  
Oh, look, up in the pulpit, there he stands.

# Forgiveness

Roy C. O'Donnell

**...forgiveness is a word whose meaning, as well as its importance, is seldom fully understood.**

A request for forgiveness implies a sense of guilt, but I think there is also a touch of resentment toward God in these lines of Omar Khayyam's *Rubaiyat*; "O Thou, who man of baser earth didst make, / And ev'n with Paradise devise the snake; / For all the sin wherewith the face of man / Is blacken'd— man's forgiveness give — and take!" In contrast to these lines, Robert Frost showed what seems to me a sense of reverent playfulness when, in *In the Clearing*, he wrote: "Forgive, O Lord, my little jokes on Thee / And I'll forgive Thy great big one on me."

Many of us have experienced times when we could empathize with the sentiment Frost expressed; but on sober reflection we know that although God never needs our forgiveness, we do need His. Paul, in Romans 3:23, wrote: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." And James 3:2 says: "For in many things we offend all...." Likewise, in 1 John 1:8, we are told: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." But fortunately for us, in the following verse we are told: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The word *forgive*, including the derivative forms *forgave*, *forgiven*, *forgiving*, and *forgiveness*, occurs 117 times in the Bible, 52 times in the Old Testament and 65 times in the New Testament. Various forms of *pardon*, a near synonym of *forgive*, occur 20 times, all in the Old Testament. In spite of the frequency of its use, both in and outside the Bible, I think *forgive* is a word whose meaning, as well as its importance, is seldom fully understood.

The dictionary definition of *forgive* includes these meanings: "to cancel an indebtedness or liability; to cease to feel resentment toward; to grant pardon to." *Pardon* is defined as "a release from the penalty of an offense; to release from liability for an offense." The legal aspect of this definition is probably more thoroughly understood than is the personal

aspect of *forgiveness*.

Much of the Old Testament is devoted to developing the concept of God's holiness, an ethical concept essential to our understanding of the concept of sin, and consequently to our understanding of our need for forgiveness. The song of Moses recorded in Exodus 15 includes these words in Verse 11: "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" The prophet Isaiah declares in Isaiah 5:16: "But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness." And it was the vision of God's holiness that prompted Isaiah to confess: "...Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts" (6:5).

The entire Book of Leviticus is concerned with rituals intended to meet the demands of the Hebrew concept of God's holiness, as well as to obtain forgiveness for violations of that holiness. Chapter 4, for example, prescribes detailed procedures for preparing and offering sacrifices to God. For an offense involving an entire group of people, a young bull was to be offered; for that of a prominent man, a he-goat; for that of a common man, a she-goat or an ewe. The animals were to be killed in a certain way, some of their blood sprinkled on the altar and the rest poured out at the bottom of the altar, their fat burned upon the altar, and their flesh burned outside the camp. There were detailed instructions for what to offer and how to offer it for various offenses against a holy God.

But rituals by their nature are repetitive, and anything that is repeated often enough has the potential to become mechanical and meaningless. That is exactly what happened in Hebrew history. Many people came to trust the outward form of the rituals without discerning their intended meaning. The same

*cont....*



thing still happens today: just as some Catholics go regularly to mass to satisfy their sense of obligation to God and then live however they please. There are some Protestants who go to church regularly and then live their daily lives the way they please. It was the mission of the Old Testament prophets to remind people of the ethical demands of God's Law. And sometimes their message was so unwelcome that they were punished severely, some even put to death, for their efforts.

The inadequacy of ritual sacrifice alone is recognized in Psalm 51:16, 17: "For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." This psalm is often associated with David's penitence after he was confronted by the prophet Nathan about his relationship with Bathsheba. David's response to Nathan was, "...I have sinned against the Lord..." (2 Samuel 12:13). Nathan's response shows that although God does not always shield the sinner from the natural consequences of his actions, He does forgive the sins of the truly penitent. Nathan said: "The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die." However, he had already told David: "Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife" (v. 10). And David spent the rest of his life reaping, in the tragedies of his family, the consequences of the sinful example he had set before them.

The best Old Testament example of one person forgiving others for their offenses against him is that of Joseph. Out of jealousy, Joseph's brothers treated him cruelly, with the result that he was sold into slavery in Egypt. After being falsely accused by

Potiphar's wife and imprisoned, Joseph eventually emerged as the second most powerful man in Egypt. During a seven-year period of famine in that part of the world, Joseph's brothers, and their father Jacob, became dependent on Joseph for their very lives. After Jacob's death, thinking Joseph had spared them for their father's sake and that now he would have his revenge, they approached their brother with the claim that their father had made a dying request that Joseph forgive them. "And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, "Thy father did command before he died, saying, So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy

*...there are some ... who  
go to church regularly  
and then live their daily  
lives the way they please.*

brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father" (Genesis 50:16-17). Joseph's response was: "...Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them" (vv. 19-21).

The attitude of Joseph is illustrative of the spirit of forgiveness taught by Jesus in the New Testament. Peter, in Matthew 18:21, asked Jesus: "...Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" Peter probably thought he was being extremely generous when he suggested seven as the number of times to forgive an offender. The reply Jesus gave must have surprised

him: "Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee. Until seven times: but, until seventy times seven" (v. 22). Paul incorporated the teaching of Jesus in his own teaching. In Ephesians 4:32, he wrote: "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Jesus himself set the example of forgiving others. The account of the Crucifixion of Jesus in Luke 23:33, 34 reads as follows: "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Acts 7 gives the account of the stoning of Stephen, one of the first deacons. As he was dying at the hands of the enemies of the cause of Christ he followed the example of our Lord. He said: "...Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge...." (vv. 59-60).

Forgiving others is really not optional for the Christian. Jesus taught his disciples to pray: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). Commenting on this part of the prayer, Jesus said: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (vv. 14, 15).

Forgiving others is not optional, but it also is not easy. It is not easy for the offender, because asking for and accepting forgiveness requires an admission of fault. It is not easy for the offended, because feelings of resentment and hostility often run deep. Both the acceptance and the granting of forgiveness require a submissive attitude that runs counter to natural inclination. In fact, many

*cont....*

***Both the acceptance and the granting of forgiveness require a submissive attitude that runs counter to natural inclination.***

people regard both a forgiving spirit and a request for forgiveness as a sign of weakness, and they fear that forgiving others will make them appear to be vulnerable. Publius Syrus, writing in the first century BC, said: "Pardon one offense, and you encourage the commission of many" (Maxim 750). Pierre Corneille, in his seventeenth century work, *Cinna*, says: "He who forgives easily invites offense." And "To forgive no enemy, but to be cautious and often dilatory in revenge" is one of the maxims for attaining greatness attributed to Jonathan Wild, a character created by the eighteenth century novelist Henry Fielding. In a similar vein, T.B. Macauley, writing in the nineteenth century (*Hallam*, 1828), said, "Before we extol a man for his forgiving temper, we should inquire whether he is above revenge, or below it." Human nature being what it is, even those who don't regard forgiving as a sign of weakness may find it hard to truly forgive. H.L. Mencken's *A New Dictionary of Quotations* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1962) includes this quotation, attributed to an unidentified author: "A woman may consent to forget and forgive, but she never will drop that habit of referring to the matter now and then." In all fairness, I think we have to recognize the fact that this habit is not peculiar to the feminine gender; men may have the same habit. As hard as it to say, "I forgive you," it is even harder to actually do it.

The rewards for forgiving others have been widely recongized. Even before the Christian era, Terence, in *Adelphi* (c. 160 BC) wrote: "There is nothing

so advantageous to a man as a forgiving disposition." And Samuel Johnson, in the December 24, 1751, issue of *The Rambler* wrote: "A wise man will make haste to forgive, because he knows the true value of time, and will not suffer it to pass away in unnecessary pain." It was Francis Bacon's opinion that: "In taking revenge a man is but even with his enemy, but in passing it over he is superior, for it is a prince's part to pardon."

The Bible teaches us that God freely forgives our transgressions, and it commands us to freely forgive the transgressions of others. But we should never assume that just because forgiveness is free, it is also cheap. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Forgiveness is very costly.

***Christ died in our place to pay the penalty for our sins, and because he died, we can be forgiven and have life.***

Paul, in Romans 6:23, tells us that "...the wages of sin is death,..." and earlier, in 5:12: "...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." And before that, in Verse 8: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." In Verses 20 and 21, Paul says: "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might

abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." The essence of Paul's message is that *Christ died in our place to pay the penalty for our sins, and because he died, we can be forgiven and have life.*

Nor should we assume that because forgiveness is free that we are free to sin. Paul deals with this issue in the opening verses of Chapter 6: "...Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" We would do well to sincerely pray as the psalmist does: "...cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be innocent from the great transgression" (Psalm 19:12-13).

I am not a psychiatrist, but it is my understanding that many of the psychological problems that cause people to suffer great anguish are rooted in guilt and resentment. Guilt diminishes our sense of self-worth, and resentment destroys our peace of mind. Together, they can destroy our physical health and literally make us sick. In order to be free from the burden of guilt, we should accept God's free forgiveness. In order to be free from the burden of resentment, we should freely forgive others. In no other way can we fully enjoy the abundant life that Jesus promises those who follow Him.

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## Our Apologies!

Because of the flooding that followed Hurricane Floyd and the consequent electrical problems with some of our processing equipment, we were unable to print and mail this issue of *The Free Will Baptist* on schedule. Thanks for your patience and understanding. — Editorial Staff.

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# CAMP VANDEMERE

OUR FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTER

## Disaster at Camp Vandemere

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

As I write to you today, I write with a heavy heart. Our camp has been hit very hard by tropical depression Dennis. We were prepared for the hurricane and all went well with it; but when it came back as a depression, I don't think that anyone was expecting what we got.

Words cannot express the major damage that the camp experienced. We sustained tremendous water damage to the whole camp. The bath house, which was the first building that was constructed on the campus, was completely washed away. It has withstood several storms prior to this one, and has been used by the camp for several years. The snack building also was completely washed away — much of it can be found across the street in the weeds. It is difficult to understand how this happened, because this building was tied down very similar to the way you would tie down a mobile home. The dining hall looks like someone exploded a bomb inside it. All of the tables, the piano, chairs, and other items were all washed to one side of the room. The windows on the front side of the building were severely damaged. The frames were moved several inches from where they were originally installed. The panels under the windows were washed out by the surge of water. The ice machine and the freezer both were lying flat on the floor. It looked as if someone had gone in and turned them over. The dorm fared better — there were some windows that the frames were moved several inches. The best we can tell, the water came up about four feet

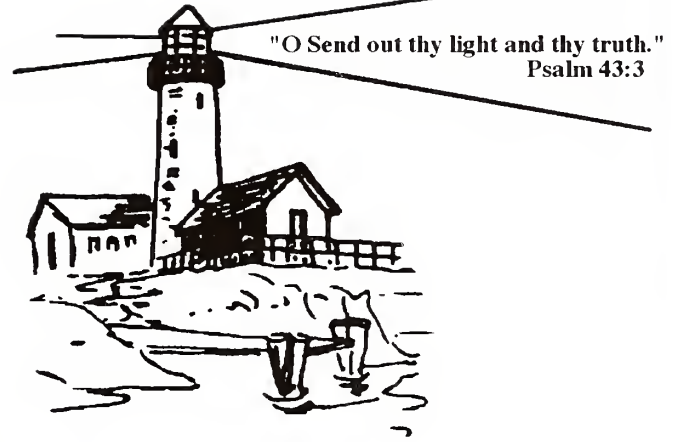
inside the building.

The pool was completely destroyed. It looks as if someone drove a Mack truck over it.

Many have asked me if we are going to rebuild. The answer is an emphatic YES, WE ARE! Camp Vandemere is a ministry dedicated to winning young people to the Lord. Countless numbers have found Christ as their Saviour at the camp. We don't intend to let Satan put an end to the souls that are being blessed through the camp. It will take prayer, hard work, and finances. In Matthew's gospel we read, "Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and ye shall find." If we stop now, we are saying that the hearts and lives of our young people, as well as our adults, are not worth very much.

We need your help. First, we need your prayers; then we need you to help us financially. Some of our churches have the resources that they could make a substantial donation to the camp immediately, while other churches might consider having a fund-raiser for us. As individuals, most of us have the means to give a one-time gift, or by pledging a small amount each month. We would like to encourage churches and individuals from all our conferences to have a part in our rebuilding. We will update you as the board decides the best direction for restructuring the camp.

Continue to keep us in your prayers as we bounce back from the roadblock Satan is trying to throw at us. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank you now for what I know that



you will do to help win souls for the Lord.

You may send your contributions to:

Mrs. Judith Kennedy  
933 North NC Highway 41  
Pink Hill, NC 28572

### Insurance Information

You may ask why the Camp did not carry flood insurance on the property. Coastal and inland property located near areas which can be flooded are given designations which reflect the risk of flooding potential. The Camp property is located in the "A" flood zone which is the highest risk. When the Camp was originally built it was placed on slabs directly on the ground, a practice now prohibited in this area.

The standard property and casualty insurance, which we carry on our homes and churches specifically excludes damage due to flooding. For that reason Federal Flood Insurance was designed to insure against this type of risk. This insurance is very expensive and the Camp discontinued it's flood policy in the wake of Hurricane Fran due to poor claims payments.

Flood coverage is designed for the structures only and the contents have to be covered on another policy which does not have replacement cost provisions. The loss on the buildings, which are steel built on cement slabs, was small compared to the loss

cont....

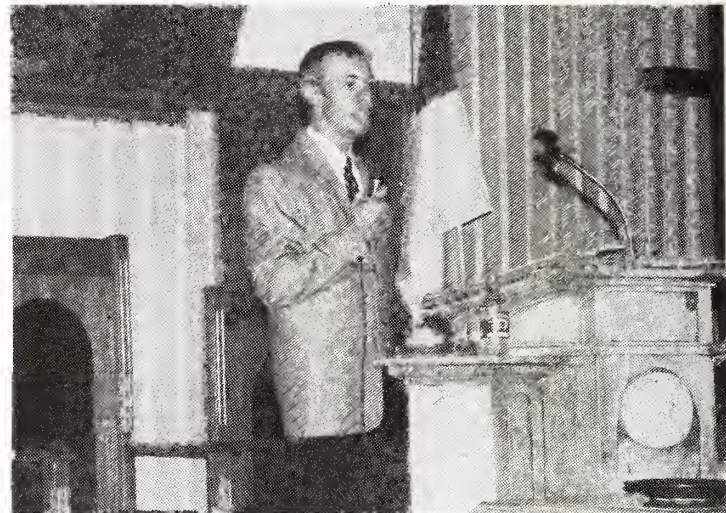


# LAYMAN'S LEAGUE



Our Layman's League Executive and Promotional Board met August 5, 1999, at the VFW Building in Snow Hill, NC. Attending were from left to right: Stanley Jenkins; Robert Tripp, State Treasurer; Russell Tyson, State Vice President; Frank Yarborough; Randy Tyson; Herman Tyson; Robert Ramsey, President of our Eastern Conference; Elmer Harrell, State President; Harold Humbles, State Secretary taking the photo. On behalf of all of us, we want to thank President Elmer Harrell for the outstanding job this year, especially the "Spiritual Life Retreat 1999 Program" and pig-picking. Whether you're a Layman or not, help us to reach out to as many as possible to make the Retreat 2000 a larger success, a program you would hate to miss.

## Eastern Layman's League



The Eastern Layman's League Conference was held at Camp Vandemere on August 16, 1999, with a young guest speaker, Joseph Brinkley of Vanceboro, NC. Young Joseph has spoken at many other events with a strong message on the word of God which has drawn many youth to the altar. That's what it's all about, reaching out at a time when our youth are struggling to survive a world of drugs, alcohol, and all the trials and tribulations that seem to destroy so many. Let's pray to God that he will continue to bless Joseph with a message that will touch others as time is slipping by and no one knows the moment, or the hour, that the Son of God cometh.

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### *Disaster at Camp Vandemere Cont...*

suffered on the contents. A claim filed on the contents policy is paid on a depreciated basis, what the used contents are worth rather than what it would cost to replace, would have fallen far short of the amount needed to replace these expensive commercial items. The pool, which represented the single largest monetary loss, was uninsurable under the flood plan.

#### **Position Available at Camp Vandemere**

Camp Vandemere is now accepting applications for the position of Camp Manager. Depending on the qualifications of the successful candidate this position may be filled on either a full-time or part-time basis. For job description and application reply in confidence to:

Camp Manager c/o Donald Fader  
Box 1376, Kinston, NC 28503  
252-523-5800

## *Dates to Remember*

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| October 11  | Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC   |
| November 5  | State Layman's League Conference, 7:00 PM meal; 7:45 PM business. Hosted by Friendship FWB Church, Farmville, NC.   |
| November 15 | Eastern Conference Layman's League, New Haven FWB Church 5 miles east of Hwy 17 on State Road 1003 (also known as the Aurora Road) Asken, NC. Meal 7:00 PM, business 7:45 PM. |
| December 2  | Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC.  |
| December 6  | Central Conference Layman's League, 7:00 PM meal, 7:45 PM business. Hosted by Rose Hill FWB church, on County Home Road, Greenville, NC.                                      |



# October is Minister's Program Month

and

# Clergy Appreciation Day is

## October 10, 1999

### Here are some ideas for you to make this a special day for your pastor!

- ✓ Set up a leafless tree and have the members decorate it with small gifts, or envelopes with gift certificates or money.
- ✓ Give your pastor a mini-vacation, a weekend at the coast or in the mountains.
- ✓ Receive a love offering.
- ✓ Make banners of appreciation and display them throughout the church.
- ✓ Invite a guest speaker and give your pastor the day off.
- ✓ Present your pastor with a card signed by as many of the members as possible along with a gift certificate for shoes, a suit, or a restaurant he enjoys.

### *What Is the Minister's Program?*

When the Convention brought the Minister's Program into existence during the first part of this century, it was given a mandate to help provide for the needy, retired, and infirmed minister. This came about along the time the depression was upon us and that period of our history made us acutely aware that there was no such thing as a safety net for individuals who lacked the resources to provide for themselves.

It is no surprise that ministers found themselves in this category, and even when the Social Security Act came into being ministers were specifically excluded from the benefits provided under this program. It was not until the 1950s that ministers were even allowed to participate in this government program.

At the beginning, the Program sought to provide a stipend for the retired ministers in the Convention. This was not unlike the Social Security Program which instituted a pay as you go program whereby the present working generation actually provides the benefits for those who are presently retired. The principle difference is that, unlike the federal government, the Convention does not have the authority to mandate contributions; and due to the lack of voluntary contributions we were unable to provide a meaningful benefit for the many deserving ministers who needed assistance. This caused us to reexamine our effectiveness and how best to provide for the ministers in the Convention.

### *The Future*

At this point it is important to note that providing for a pastor should not be the task of the central board or governing authority. The responsibility of providing for the needs of the pastor rests squarely upon the shoulders of the local church, and the Minister's Program has evolved into an extension of the local church into helping them provide what they cannot provide themselves. Providing a top flight retirement program, a partnership in health benefits, compensation and tax planning are just a part of what we do.

In addition to this, we also provide hardship grants for ministers in need, and through your generosity each Christmas, ministers 65 and over receive a \$100 gift from you, the church of the Convention. Also we have supplemented the retirement benefits of all ministers who retired under the old program, many of whom have outlived their benefits but still receive a monthly gift; again this is

## MINISTER'S PROGRAM

because of your faithful support.

In the past the Minister's Program has sponsored a Tax Seminar to assist ministers and churches in adopting strategies to assist the minister in reducing his tax burden. When we started this program, many of the churches were not complying with basic IRS guidelines in the preparation of W-2s for their ministers. This placed some of our ministers at risk for audits and reviews. We assisted those churches and treasurers by providing information that helped bring them up to date in the simple requirements necessary for tax compliance.

This year the Minister's Program in cooperation with Larry Burkett's organization, Christian Financial Concepts, will host a Pastor's Conference that will focus on personal financial planning along with information on church administration and the church's financial ministry. This seminar will be held on the campus of Mount Olive College on February 5, 2000. First consideration will be given to the pastor and wives of this Convention, but space will also be available to other ministers throughout the region.

We have tried to educate the church to the unique needs of their pastors so that together they can work out a plan that will be fair and equitable to all those concerned. When a church does not provide adequate compensation, how can they expect first rate leadership? We have all heard it said that "God will provide for them" and this is true, but what we sometimes fail to see is that the local church is the conduit of this provision. If the local church does not provide for their pastor, then who will?

We have poured money into the buildings and physical facilities; yet we fail to achieve the growth that will assure a healthy church tomorrow. It is time to raise the standard because there is no substitute for quality leadership. When God calls the best and brightest

among us to the ministry, we must show that individual that the pastorate is a viable choice in answering that call.

The Minister's Program sounded an alarm in the 1980s that the average age of our ministers was increasing due to the lack of younger men entering the pastoral ministry. This trend has yet to be reversed and we are rapidly approaching the next millennium. This program has evolved over the years as an educational resource helping churches and ministers as they plan together, and we will continue to serve the Convention in this capacity. Your support, through prayers and gifts, to this ministry will allow us to help you

and those whom God has called to serve.

October is Minister's Program Month and we would like to ask you to receive a special offering for this program and/or include this program in your annual budget. Please consider the following challenge for your church:

Membership	Gift Challenge
Less than 100	\$150.00
100-149	\$300.00
150-199	\$400.00
Over 200	\$500.00

For more information please contact  
The Free Will Baptist Minister's  
Program  
Box 39 • Ayden, NC 28513

## *Does your Church Support the Minister's Program?*

If you answered "I don't know" to the question above, there is a good chance that your church provided no financial support to the Minister's Program last year. Over one hundred churches provided no gift support to this program during the 1998-1999 Program year. The logical follow up question is "why?"

The Minister's Program is a ministry of this Convention and is governed by a Board elected by the Convention. The only gift support we receive is from the churches of this Convention, many of whom are generous with their contributions and for this we are grateful. But it is frightening to think that approximately 45% of our churches do not give at any level to the support of this program.

Listed below are just a few of the reasons that your church should reconsider its assistance to the Minister's Program:

- The Program continues to provide retirement benefits to ministers who have outlived their benefits. This is only possible through your faithful giving to the program. While our financial report shows over three quarters of a million dollars on deposit, these funds are divided into individual retirement accounts for ministers and reserve funds. This money belongs to the men who are preparing for their retirement and cannot be used for any other purpose.
- Each year ministers 65 and over receive a gift in the amount of \$100 during Operation Christmas Cheer. Once again it is your support that makes this possible. Many of these men are your former pastors and friends who because of advancing age are no longer able to attend the Conferences and Conventions but are truly touched by a gift from the churches of this Convention.
- All administrative costs incurred in the management of the retirement program are paid by the Program and are not charged to the individual ministers as is the case in commercial retirement programs. This cost runs in the thousands of dollars each year but is paid completely by your gifts.
- The cost of Minister's Widows Fund and the Surviving Ministers Fund are paid by the Program so that every dime of the enrollment fees goes to the survivors and not one dime is used to pay costs.
- The Board works very hard to control the expenses of the Program and this



year only \$.13 of every dollar received from all sources was spent in administration.

- We sponsor seminars which are subsidized so that the minister only pays a fraction of the cost to attend.
- Hardship Grants are available up to \$500 for ministers in extreme need.

Perhaps one reason for the low level of

support is that some ministers are hesitant to raise the issue in the local church because they may be perceived as being self-serving. I had a treasurer tell me one time that they did not support the Minister's Program because they felt they paid their ministers enough and did not see the need to help the Program. The Minister's Program is for all the ministers who are presently serving and for those who have served so well.

Please refer to the Minister's Program report in your Convention book and see if your church is listed. If it is not please take the time to place it in your budget or receive a special offering. We are dedicated to those who serve. Are you? For additional information please contact:

Donald Fader  
Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513  
252-523-5800

## *PBC 19th Commencement Exercises*

by Cerelina Cababaro Presto

Palawan Bible College Graduation was traditionally scheduled for the last week of March, but was changed to April 12, 1999, so the Short-Term Missionaries and Conventionists could witness the said affair and support the graduates in prayer.



Commencement is defined as "a celebration of the completion of school or college when degrees are conferred and it is also the beginning." It is a turning point or transition from Palawan Bible College to the Harvest or Battle Field. Everyone was challenged and blessed as the Rev. Zacarias Perocillo reminded us that there is abundant living in serving the Lord. The Rev. Harold Jones, our very own missionary field director, admonished us to trust God in all circumstances and in all our undertakings.

Serving God is not an easy task. Please pray for the graduates as they go forth in service.



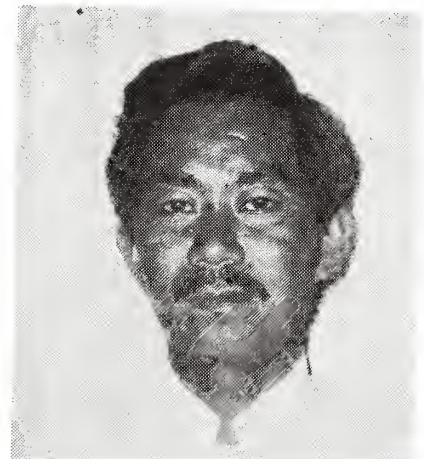
## *Expanding God's Work*

by Pastor Nerie Peralta

God continues to expand His work through the availability and dedication of His Christian workers in the South District of Palawan. This July 1999, God started His work at Massin, Brooke's Point, Palawan. Pastor Celestino Peralta, Sr., and Brother Julian Amoto have accepted the challenge to serve God in this place.

Pastor Rommel Cajandoc was assigned to Sofronio Española township under my supervision. He has already made contracts for a Bible study. Sister Janneth Sano was assigned to Ipilan, Narra, Palawan; and Sister Norma Cuba was assigned to Burerao, Narra, Palawan.

These four new areas already have on-going Bible studies and hopefully will soon have regular Sunday services. Please pray for these new outreaches.



Pastor Nerie Peralta



## *Baptismal Service — Philippines*

by Pastor Nerie Peralta

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:19–20).



This is the reason why the Iraray Free Will Baptist Church gathered together in this beautiful place to conduct a baptismal service. There were

twenty-eight souls who responded to the call of God to obey His Command. This service was held on July 17, 1999, at Maasin Dam, Maasin, Brooke’s Point, Palawan.

I ask you to include these people in your personal prayers, that they might be strong and live for Christ daily. To God be the glory! Great things He hath done!



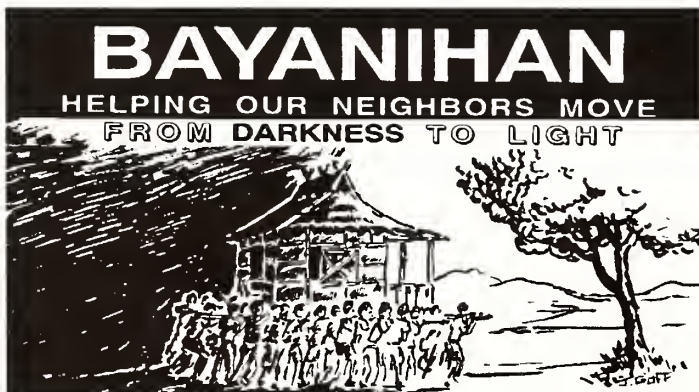
## *Ebangelismo Bayanihan (Effective Way for Soul Winning)*

by Pastor Eder Peralta

The Free Will Baptist Church, South District, Palawan, Philippines has continued in evangelism (soul winning) since the Rev. Harold Jones introduced this program. The first week of each month we schedule one local church and work with the pastor and members. We visit, sharing the gospel from house to house, pray for the sick and strengthen the Body of Christ (revival of the believers).

Last July 5–6, 1999, we were in Sofronio Española, a newly started work by Pastor Rommel Cajandoc. We praise the Lord for two days and hard work of sharing the gospel with the lost. There were ten families who found a new way of life. They came to know the Saviour and surrendered their lives to Him.

Praise the Lord for His unchanging purpose, for His power as we share His Word. Glory to His name, now and forever. Now we have twelve existing local churches and outreaches within the South District. Please pray for us, especially for the unity and daily revival. Let us work hard until He comes.



## *Gypsy Marriage Customs*

Balchik, 7 Juli 1999

by Janan (Tezdjan)

Gypsy marriage. All over the world marriage-customs are different. Two of our girls, Buddy and Elif, married recently. Buddy married to Valerie, who has been with us for quite awhile, and Elif married a young man named Ishmael.

The families decided to these marriages from one day into another. When the man, or in the Gypsy custom often a boy, likes a girl, he has to tell that to his aunts from the father’s side. The other day the “Sapzarap” (the stealing of the girl) took place. Nobody asked the girl if she loves the man or the boy.

Gypsies marry young. Our girls who married are only 16 years old. After the girl is brought to the house of the man or the boy, the aunts of the man (boy) dress her with very shiny and colorful clothes. But she will not have any jewelry on yet. The girl sleeps the first night with the man (boy) and if she had proven to be a virgin, the aunts will bring her golden earrings, rings, and a necklace.

All the time the bride is surrounded by the older women who give her all kinds of advices. The bride is treated very well until the wedding parties are over. Then the couple

cont....



### *Gypsy Marriage Customs, cont....*

is left alone. If the groom and the bride were not friends before the marriage, things become a little difficult. They are strangers to one another.

We have taught our girls not to marry too young.

Therefore Elif told the women that she wished to return home, but the older women around her said, "Oh, you want to go home because you are not a virgin anymore." They really forced her to stay with all other kinds of perverse accusation.

At the moment it was pretty good with her and she said: "I will try to love my man." When she is allowed to visit her mother, she visits me to talk about herself a little.

Please, pray for all of us and for these two young families.



*Tezdjan with some of the Gypsy girls.*

## MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

### *The Mount Olive College Experience*

Attending college can be a major transition. For the first time students have to decide when to study, what to study, and how to study. At Mount Olive College a comprehensive support system insures that students have adequate time to live, learn, and enjoy campus life.

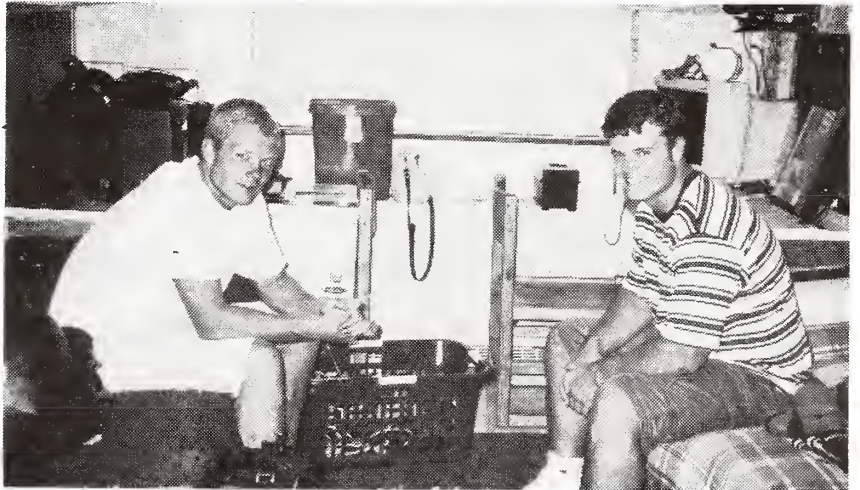
Mount Olive College offers Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Applied Science degrees, as well as Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees in the variety of majors. The College has a School of Business and six academic departments, including Fine Arts, Language and Literature, Recreation and Leisure Studies, Science, Mathematics, and Social Sciences.

The classroom experience at Mount Olive College is one of involvement and excitement! Rather than merely lecturing about topics, Mount Olive College professors are facilitators of learning. Students are involved in active discussions, group assignments and research projects. Academic courses are taught by professors not graduate assistants. Faculty members serve as advisors to students in the selection of their courses. With the average class size of 23, every student gets personal attention. For those students who need a little extra help, the College also offers individual and small group tutoring in all subjects. These interactions provide many learning opportunities for students to develop career and life skills.

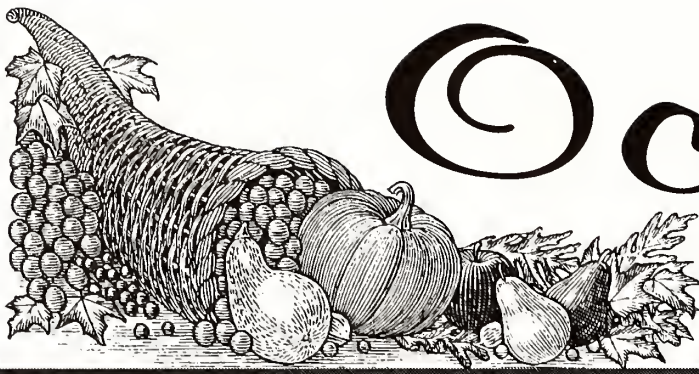
Campus life at Mount Olive College is in itself a learning experience. Living on campus offers

students independence, as well as the chance to become involved in activities. Opportunities include clubs, organizations, performing groups, intramurals, residence life, retreats, and NCAA Division II competitive sports. Worship experiences enhance spiritual development; and cultural programs give students exposure to great music, art, and literature.

Mount Olive College has five different locations throughout the region where it offers



*Pictured are freshman, Philip Adams from Carteret County and freshman, Steven Browne from Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Carteret County. The young men took a moment to smile for the camera after moving into their new dorm room. The 1999–2000 academic year is in full swing at Mount Olive College. More than 1,790 traditional and nontraditional students have enrolled at the College's five locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, Goldsboro, the Triangle, and Wilmington. This number is up 200 students from last fall's enrollment figures.*



# October 1999

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SUN	MON	TUE	
26	27	28	29
3	4	5	6
10 Clergy Appreciation Day	11 Columbus Day (Observed)	12	13
17	18	19	20
Cragmont Club...			
24 Cragmont Club... 31 Daylight Savings set back 1 hour	25	26	27

**THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRES**



erns \_\_\_\_\_

member \_\_\_\_\_

	THU	FRI	SAT
	30	1	2
Conference ern District s Auxiliary	7	8	9 Pee Dee District Woman's Auxiliary  Bailey Lecture Mount Olive College
	14 Western Conference  Albemarle District Woman's Auxiliary	15	16 Pee Dee Association
		<b>CRAGMONT CLUB WEEKEND</b>	
	21 Eastern Conference	22	23
		<b>CRAGMONT CLUB WEEKEND</b>	
	28	29	30 Paul Palmer Conference

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

*The Mount Olive College Experience, cont....*

students a multiplicity of opportunities in higher education. New students are enrolled in programs at Mount Olive, Goldsboro, New Bern, Wilmington, and the Triangle every month of the year except July and December.

In addition to traditional programs, the College offers Degree Completion Programs, where students with 60 semester hours of college can complete their degree in Management and Organizational Development, Criminal Justice, or Church Ministries in 55-60 weeks. The College also offers satellite instruction through Old Dominion University, as well as a cooperative teacher education program in conjunction with East Carolina University.

Mount Olive College is as affordable as it is diverse. The College offers financial assistance to all qualified students, tailoring financial aid packages to fit students' individual needs. The College awards financial assistance according to nationally accepted policies based on demonstrated need and exceptional merit in academics, athletics, music, and art. Scholarships are also available for qualified applicants.

For more information about any of the educational programs offered at Mount Olive College or for information about financial assistance call (919) 658-2502. The College is now accepting applications for the Fall of 2000,

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## Coming Events

Music in the Chapel Series  
Featuring "Carolina Brass"  
November 1 — 7:30 PM  
Rodgers Chapel

Sunday Buffet  
Every Sunday  
\$6.50 per adult  
\$3.50 per child 12 and under  
11:30 AM — 2:00 PM  
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

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## Mount Olive College Kicks Off New Academic Year with Fall Convocation

Mount Olive College started the 1999-2000 academic year with Fall Convocation, an annual worship service for students, faculty, and staff. The Rev. Frank Harrison, Campus Minister, says Convocation gives students, staff, and faculty a chance to come together for worship and fellowship at the start of a new semester.

Dr. J. William Byrd, President of the College, challenged the Class of 2003. He asked both students and professors to plan to be successful, prepare to be successful and to define success in their own individual lives. He also told the students they are entering a season of personal, spiritual, and emotional growth and would emerge from the halls of Mount Olive College as quite different people. "We will open the doors to challenge you intellectually. You will learn how to handle situations and think independently. You will learn who you are and what your values are," he said.

Dr. David Hines, Chair of the Department of Religion, gave the Convocation address. Dr. Hines was presented the Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching at spring commencement exercises. His message, entitled "Rooted in Heritage and Soaring with Vision," focused on inspiring students with academic rigor, moral purity, and Christian values.

"What does it mean to be a Christian? Why should I hold to my faith and convictions? Is my faith worth dying for? I suggest that until you know what you would die for, you really don't have anything of ultimate value to live for," Dr. Hines commented. He went on to note that the idea of a "Christian college" was not just window dressing — not just a couple of Bible classes. "Our Christian heritage still forms Mount Olive College. We are a ministry of the Original Free Will Baptist Church, and we exist to advance the mission of the Church by equipping men and women to be the people of God. President Emeritus W. Burkette Raper once said: 'The day the Original Free Will Baptist Church can achieve its mission without Mount Olive College is the day we cease to have a reason to exist.' These are strong words, but they are words which define *who* we are and *why* we exist. We must never take this heritage for granted. Our Christian heritage will give us roots. Our vision of academic and personal excellence will enable us to soar," Dr. Hines concluded.



Mount Olive College started the 1999-2000 academic year with Fall Convocation, an annual worship service for students, faculty, and staff. Speakers at the event were (L-R): Penny Ziemer, Lecturer in English; David Hines, Chair of the Department of Religion; Frank Harrison, Campus Minister; J. William Byrd, President; and Jennifer Parker, SGA President and member of Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Lenoir County.



## *Church Dinners to Begin in October*

Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support and Coordinator for the annual church dinners, has announced that the churches in the Pee Dee Association will join with the other 17 county-wide areas to have a dinner for the College this fall, making a total of 18 dinners this year.

The dinners have a three-fold purpose. They provide an opportunity for Free Will Baptists: (1) to see first hand the students in which they are making an investment; (2) to invest in the students served by the College; and (3) to receive information about what their gifts provide for this ministry.

The schedule for the 18 dinners is listed below.

**Lenior County**, Saturday, October 2, 7:00 PM, Kinston High School, Kinston, Jeff Daughtry, Chair. Goal: \$22,725

**Jones County**, Monday, October 4, 7:00 PM, Pilgrim's Home FWB Church, Dover, Gene Burkett, Chair. Goal: \$7,125

**Edgecombe County**, Tuesday, October 5, 7:00 PM, Peace FWB Church of Pinetops, Carroll Bradbury, Chair. Goal: \$7,775

**Onslow-Brunswick Counties**, Thursday, October 7, 7:00 PM, Folkstone FWB Church, Folkstone, Ronnie Parker, Chair. Goal: \$3,925

**Beaufort County**, Saturday, October 9, 7:00 PM, Beaufort County Community College, Washington, Billy Gurkin, Chair. Goal: \$14,075

**Greene County**, Monday, October 11, 7:00 PM, Greene County Middle School Snow Hill, Randy Beaman and Genevieve M. Taylor, Co-Chair. Goal: \$26,375

**Pamlico County**, Saturday, October 16, 6:00 PM, Mt Zion FWB Church, Vandemere, Judy Thaanum, Chair. Goal: \$10,850.

**Wayne County**, Tuesday, October 26, 7:00 PM, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Joyce Edmundson, Chair. Goal: \$64,250

**Nash County**, Thursday, October 28, 7:00 PM, Whitley Center, FWB Children's Home, Middlesex, John R. Manning, Chair. Goal: \$13,025

**Johnston-Wake Counties**, Monday, November 1, 7:00 PM, Everett Chapel FWB Church, Spiritual Life Building, Clayton, Keenan Hinnant and Teresa A. Speer, Co-Chair. Goal: \$53,025

**Duplin County**, Saturday, November 6, 6:00 PM, Mount Olive College, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Tommy Benson, Chair. Goal: \$17,900

**Craven County**, Monday, November 8, 7:00 PM, West Craven Middle School near New Bern, Roy Wetherington, Chair. Goal: \$21,700

**Pee Dee Association**, Tuesday, November 9, 7:00 PM, Mission Valley FWB Church near Clarendon, Danny McPherson, Chair.

**Washington, Martin, Tyrrell, and Pasquotank Counties**, Thursday, November 11, 7:30 PM, Union Chapel FWB Church Fellowship Hall, Plymouth, David Cahoon, Chair. Goal: \$18,525

**Carteret County**, Saturday, November 13, 6:00 PM, West Carteret High School, Morehead City, Sheri S. Noonan and Edgar Pake, Jr., Co-Chair. Goal: \$15,600

**Wilson County**, Monday, November 15, 7:00 PM, Beddingfield High School near Wilson, Richard Holmes, Chair. Goal: \$43,925

**Pitt County**, Tuesday, November 16, 7:00 PM, J. H. Rose High School, Greenville, Jane T. Tripp, Chair. Goal: \$33,825

**Sampson, Harnett, and Cumberland Counties**, Thursday, November 18, 7:00 PM, Clinton-Sampson Agri-Civic Center, Clinton, Lee Morton Jernigan, Chair. Goal: \$39,075

**1999 Total Dinner Goal: \$413,700**

## *Introductory Lecture for the Barrow Professor of Biblical Studies*

An introductory lecture for the Barrow Professor of Biblical Studies will be held at 10:15 AM on Saturday, October 9, 1999, in Rodgers Chapel at Mount Olive College.

The theme of the lecture will be "Studying and Proclaiming the Word in the New Millennium, God and the Astronomers: In the Beginning, Was There God or Hydrogen?" The event is free to the public. A buffet meal will be available at the cost of \$7 per person for anyone interested. The lecture will be Dr. Lloyd R. Bailey, Sr. Bailey is the newly appointed Barrow Professor of Biblical Studies at Mount Olive College.

For more information on the lecture and to make lunch reservations, contact Dr. K. David Hines, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 or call (919) 658-2502.

## *Continuing the Family Tradition*

It is only fitting that Donald Coates stands with his son, Matthew, near the newly constructed Alumni Crosswalk on opening day at Mount Olive College. Twenty-four years ago Donald began his college career on the downtown campus at Breazeale Avenue. Donald and his wife, Suzanne, are very pleased that Matthew chose to keep the family tradition alive.

"I knew about Mount Olive College because of Dad; however, I also looked at several other schools. I was accepted at Elon, UNCW, and MOC. I chose Mount Olive College because of the small school atmosphere and the way Director of Admissions, Tim Woodard, made me feel during my decision-making process. He went out of his way to make me feel welcome and at home at Mount Olive College," Matthew noted.

Pictured are Suzanne, Matthew, and Donald Coates. Donald is the pastor of Pine Level Original Free Will Baptist Church in Pine Level, North Carolina.



**The Sixth Annual  
James A. Evans Lecture  
Dr. Bill Bennett  
Theme: Patterns for New Testament Evangelism**

**Saturday, November 13, 1999  
Rodgers Chapel  
Mount Olive College**

**Schedule of Events**

9:00 AM	Registration (\$10.00 per person, includes buffet luncheon)
9:30 AM	<b>Session I:</b> New Testament Pattern for Evangelism
10:45 AM	Break
11:00 AM	<b>Session II:</b> The Pastor's Role in Evangelism
12:00 PM	P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award Luncheon (Lois K. Murphy Regional Center)
1:30 PM	<b>Session III:</b> The Church's Role (Mission) in Evangelism: Suggestions and Concepts

***About the Evans Lecturer...***

The lecturer scheduled for the day is Dr. Bill Bennett, campus chaplain and professor of preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He has been a pastor in five states and has traveled to 27 countries. Among his achievements in pastoral ministry, Bennett served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Under his leadership, this congregation grew to a membership of over 8,000 members and founded the first Evangelism Explosion School in the Southern Baptist Convention. He is also the author of several books including *Thirty Minutes to Raise the Dead*, a book on expository preaching. Bennett is a graduate of Wake Forest University, Duke University, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

***About the James A. Evans Lecture...***

For a number of years, Mount Olive College has hosted a Ministers Institute. The format of this program was updated in 1994 with the inauguration of the James A. Evans Lecture. This lecture is sponsored by Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, North Carolina. Through sponsoring this program, Dr. Morris is seeking to foster the pastoral qualities he observed in the Rev. Evans when Evans served his home church, Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church, in the Nahunta community of Wayne County. Each year the Evans Lecture brings a significant speaker to address issues related to pastoral ministry.

The program for the day will also feature the P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award which is sponsored by Dr. Morris in memory of his great-grandfather. This award will be presented during the noon luncheon.

Each church is urged to send at least two lay persons with their minister. In preparation for the conference, please read *Effective Evangelistic Churches* (Broadman & Holmes, 1996) by Thom Rainer, which may be obtained at the Free Will Baptist Press.

***For additional information...***

Contact Dr. K. David Hines, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 (919-658-2502).

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In recognition of the outstanding service rendered by many Free Will Baptist pastors, Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, NC, has established the Elder P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award through Mount Olive College. The purpose of this award is to recognize a Free Will Baptist pastor for

extraordinary leadership and service to his church, community, and denomination. Emphasis is on pastoral services and many include bi-vocational pastors serving small churches. The recipient is to use the award to strengthen and enrich his pastoral ministry. The recipient is to provide



# NOMINATION FORM

a written report within one year of being recognized on how the funds benefited his pastoral ministry.

Originally from the Union Grove Church near Nahunta, Dr. Morris is providing a \$1,000 award as a memorial to the late Elder P.T. Lucas, Dr. Morris' great-grandfather. Elder Lucas, a Free Will Baptist minister early in this century, is remembered for his pastoral services. In sponsoring this award, Dr. Morris is seeking to strengthen and support the pastoral ministry.

The recipient will be selected from those nominated by their church according to the following criteria:

1. **Pastoral Leadership and Service** — including effectiveness as a faithful pastor, as a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and as a leader for church growth and development (this category will receive the greatest weight in the evaluation);
2. **Denominational Service** — including service to our convention, the conference, and to our denominational ministries; and
3. **Community Service** — including services such as participation in local community ministries and services as a volunteer chaplain.

If you feel that your pastor has excelled in these areas, your church is encouraged to nominate him for this award by completing the following information sheet and attaching a letter of recommendation. The clerk of your church and the deacon chairman must sign both the information sheet and the letter. To be considered for the 1999 award, nominations must be received by November 1. The recipient will be announced at a luncheon during the Pastor's Conference on November 13 at Mount Olive College.

The selection committee for this award includes representatives from the North Carolina Ministerial Association and Mount Olive College. Please address all nominations or questions to: The Elder P.T. Lucas Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, or call Dr. David Hines at the College (919-658-2502).

Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current Pastorate \_\_\_\_\_  
 Beginning Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conference Membership \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Ordained \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Pastoral Leadership and Service** — In the space below or in a letter of recommendation, describe your minister's effectiveness as a faithful pastor, as a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and as a leader for church growth and development. Please note that the major criteria for this award is extraordinary pastoral service. Give specific examples.

2. **Denominational Service** — In the space below note services to our convention, the conference, and to our denominational ministries. Include offices held, board memberships, and involvement in special projects. Give the dates when appropriate.

3. **Community Service** — Note participation in local community ministries such as service as a volunteer chaplain. List offices held and give the dates when appropriate.

Attach any additional information you think may help the committee evaluate the services and work of your pastor.

Signatures

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Deacon Chair Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Church Clerk Date

Please return this form along with a letter of recommendation by November 1 to: Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. For information call Dr. David Hines at the College (919-658-2502)



## Kings Dominion Trip

I want to ride the roller coaster! No, let's ride the double ferris wheel! Anyone for bungee jumping? July 28th was a day of cotton candy, popcorn, peanuts, rides, shows, and laughter, as the residents and staff of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home enjoyed their trip to Kings Dominion.



L to R — Dr. Bobby Taylor, Elsie McCoy, and Sonya McCoy

## Gift of Love

A special thank you to Mrs. Elsie McCoy and family, of Grifton, NC, for their generous donations of candlesticks, supply of candles, offering plates and cross, on August 11, for our communion table in Memorial Chapel. All were given in memory of Mr. Billy Ray McCoy, who passed away April 8, 1999.



## Supplies Donated

On August 12, (L to R) Agnes Corbitt, Elizabeth Pittman, and Virginia Yawn, stopped by the Children's Home to deliver towels, sheets, dishes, personal care items, and household items. The youth group of Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Fremont, sponsored this event, with the help of the Woman's Auxiliary, SS Class, and congregation. We would like to say thanks to Mr. John Edward Hill, youth leader, and all members for their time, concern, and compassion for our children.

**Mark your Calendars!**  
**Friends of Children Day**  
**November 20, 1999**  
**Free Will Baptist Children's Home Campus**

- Items in Need List:***
- ♥ Paper Products
  - ♥ Personal Care Items
  - ♥ Parament Set
  - ♥ Teen Bibles and Teen Study Bibles
  - ♥ VCR and TV
  - ♥ Playstations
  - ♥ Encyclopedias (less than 10 yrs. old)
  - ♥ Computers for Cottages (est. cost \$5000)
  - ♥ Carpet Cleaning Machine
  - ♥ Cordless Telephones
  - ♥ Christmas Decorations (No Trees)
  - ♥ Kitchen Accessories for Cottages
  - ♥ Bicycles
  - ♥ Irons and Ironing Boards
  - ♥ Basketballs and Volleyballs
  - ♥ Pots, Pans, and Dishes (12 or 10 setting)



## Cape Fear Youth Day

August 7 held excitement for the residents of the FWB Children's Home, as the Cape Fear District Youth Fellowship provided games and food for each to enjoy. Approximately 200 attended and were treated to a sponge toss, basketball, softball, hot dogs, hamburgers, watermelons, cantaloupe, relay races, and their favorite — a dunking booth. But they didn't stop there. They also brought school supplies, personal items, games, books, song, and smiles. Thanks to this caring group of young adults, the residents met new friends and realized that there are those who really do care. To the families, the churches, the members, and the friends, we say Thank You!



*The Dunking Booth*



*Cape Fear Youth visit*



*Children's Home*

## POWHATAN CONTRIBUTIONS

The youth group of Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC, provided our residents with 36 KJV Bibles. The Woman's Auxiliary donated a new large capacity washer and dryer to meet our needs. Their dedication to our ministry helps us to continue to provide for our children. Thank you for being a part of our "Home."



*Powhatan Youth Group*



*Powhatan Woman's Auxiliary Officers and Youth Officers. L to R — (front) Rita Jones, Cynthia Narron, Nikki Jones (back) Diana Bass, Ann Narron, Wanda Jones, and Sandra Peedin.*



The Board of Directors  
Invite You and  
Your Guests to  
Our Annual Luncheon  
for

Friends of  
Children  
Appreciation  
Day

November 20, 1999  
12:00 Noon  
Whitley Center

GUEST SPEAKER  
Rev. Leon Grubbs  
Free Will Baptist Children's Home

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

There will be \_\_\_\_\_ in my party for  
lunch.

RSVP by November 1, 1999  
Send to:

FWB Children's Home  
Post Office Box 249  
Middlesex, North Carolina 27557-0249



You are cordially invited to join us at our

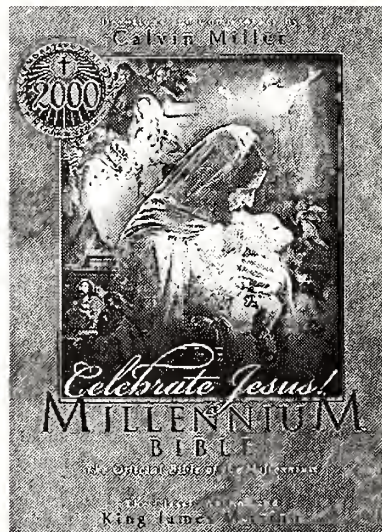
Christmas Open House

at the  
Ayden, Kinston, Wilson, and New Bern  
Bible & Bookstore

Saturday, December 4, 1999

9:00 AM — 5:00 PM

Enjoy a warm atmosphere with  
light refreshments and **20% off\*** purchases.



ENTER TO WIN AT EACH LOCATION  
The Celebrate Jesus Millennium Bible — KJV  
Gold stamped with year 2000.

\*Does not include robes, hymnals, SS. curriculum, church supplies or double  
discounts. Not valid on special orders or previously purchased items.



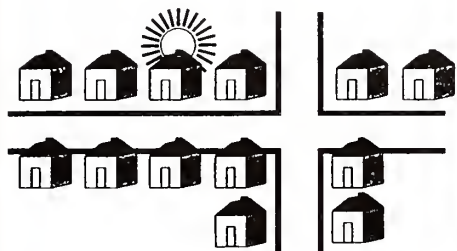


# Make Your Home a Lighthouse

## Prayer, Care, Share

### Prayer

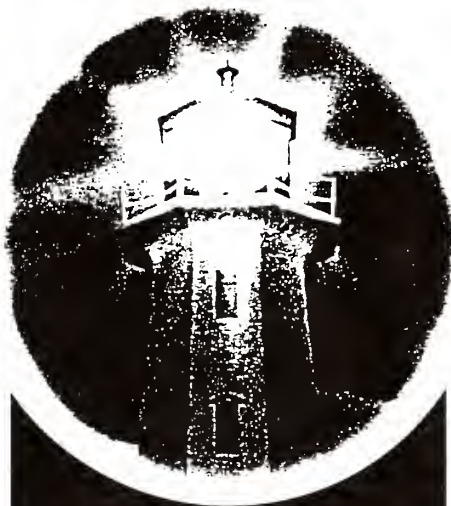
- Begin by listing 3 or 4 people you know who don't know Christ. Then start praying for them. Consider finding a Christian friend — or even two to pray with you.
- Next, you may want to make a simple map of your neighborhood or apartment building — or a seating chart at your school or place of employment. Then add the names of neighbors, classmates, or co-workers to the map or chart.



- You can "walk and pray" (known as prayerwalking) your neighborhood, office, or campus — either physically or at home using your map or chart!
- Pray regularly as you learn more about your neighbors. Add information, such as children's names, etc., to your "prayer map."

### Care

- Be friendly! Greet the people on your list and others God may send across your path, whenever



## Make Your Home a Lighthouse

### Prayer, Care, Share

you see them with a "Hi" or a wave. Cultivate friendliness! Many people are very lonely. One quick wave or "Hi" may be their only friendly contact with anyone that day. Build relationships by allowing time to be outside in your yard when neighbors are usually out. In an apartment, be friendly while checking your mail or doing the laundry.

- Be quick to reach out with "random acts of kindness." Pick up trash on their lawn, put their paper by their door, or do anything that you see to do.
- Invite a neighbor in whenever they stop by. This will usually be when the house is not very tidy

or when you have company — however, this openness will make you a real friend.

- Host a neighborhood block party or small coffee gathering. Be ready to listen — people need to know that you care about what is important to them! Watch for needs they have or needs they share. Let them know you will be praying for them. And then do it!

### Share

- Seek natural opportunities to share your faith in Christ. Share a portion of God's Word when appropriate. Pray and decide what is right — and when to share more!
- Be prepared to share the JESUS Video, simple devotional guides like "Our Daily Bread" and non-threatening tracts like "Steps to Peace with God" or the "Split Time Tract."

*...Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Mark 12:31

- Know that God may give you an opportunity to share your personal testimony as well.
- Tell the people you are praying for about a Christian Women's or Men's Luncheon or about one of your church outreach events, retreats, Bible studies, etc. Invite

*You are an essential part of a mission to pray for, care for, and share Christ with every man, woman, and young person in America by year-end 2000!*

them to attend with you!

*Take your time.*

*Know that God will lead you.*

## About Mission America & Celebrate Jesus 2000

- Mission America is a coalition of some 400 National Christian Leaders who represent 70+ denominations, and over 300 parachurch ministries focused on the vision of Celebrate Jesus 2000... to pray for, care for, and share Christ with every man, woman and young person in America by year-end 2000!
- The Lighthouse strategy is the key to accomplishing this vision. Your involvement in this effort gives you the opportunity to be a part of what God is doing across our nation.

Resources to help you pray, care and share are available. For more information, contact:

Home Missions and Evangelism  
PO Box 39  
Ayden, North Carolina 28513  
252-746-4963

## My Lighthouse Registration Card

Yes, I/We are willing to become a Lighthouse of Prayer for the prayer evangelism strategy launched by Home Missions and Evangelism September 15, 1999.

Enrollment:

Individual       Family       Church  
 S.S. Class       Youth Group       Woman's Aux.  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

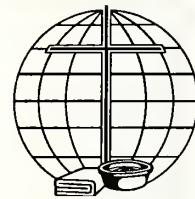
Welcome to the Lighthouse Movement!

Your commitment to pray, care, and share is all that is needed to be a Lighthouse. To reach our goal of sharing Jesus with every man, woman, and young person in our community and across America by year-end 2000, we need you! As a Lighthouse, let us help recruit our goal of 2,500 Lighthouses and become a part of the Nationwide Lighthouse Movement of 3,000,000 Lighthouses. May we shine His Light to every home.

Home Missions & Evangelism  
PO Box 39  
Ayden, North Carolina 28513

## People & Events

### Happenings throughout the Denomination



### Wardens Grove Presents Life Membership Awards

In July 1999 Wardens Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church presented four Life Time Membership award certificates and pins. The recipients, pictured left to right are: Mrs. Vera Lupton, Lucy Lupton, Mollie Campen, and Lilly Watson. The auxiliary now has 13 members.



# People & Events

## Happenings throughout the Denomination



### *Busy Hands are Happy Hands at Powhatan*

*submitted by Rita Otto Jones*

August has been an eventful month at Powhatan Free Will Baptist Church, Clayton, NC. Many of our youth and officers of the Woman's Auxiliary attended the cookout at the Children's Home on August 7. Donations were made by the Woman's Auxiliary of a washer and dryer combination for a cottage as well as 36 King James Bibles for use by the children. The Bibles were given in honor of the youth program and presented by some of the youth officers. The meal of hot dogs and hamburgers was enjoyed and an afternoon of fun and games followed. Our thanks to the cooks and servers and to all who supervised the events.

Fun Day on the 14th was our "last blast" before school started back. We enjoyed a moon walk, face painting, dunking booth, pie toss, and other events. Money raised from the games and food sold will go toward the van fund. We thank Deacon Greg Bass for arranging for the moon walk and dunking booth. He also made available a van similar to the one we hope to purchase. It was at the church all weekend for members to see. The youth became even more excited to see the results of their hard work.

The youth held a yard sale and car

wash on Saturday, August 21. We started early and had lots of merchandise, thanks to the donations of church members. Between 15 and 20 vehicles were washed and many bargains were made at the yard sale. After a generous donation on Sunday by some friends in honor of Vicky Bagley, over \$1700 was raised for the van fund. Thanks to everyone who donated, helped, or supported the efforts in any way. A special thank you to Deacon Craig Davis who helped with moving tables and merchandise and who managed the car wash.

In celebration of Heritage Sunday, several members wore period clothing on Sunday, August 22. The Rev. Jim Bogle gave a brief history of the church (founded in 1888) during the worship hour. Like a strong plant, we must protect our roots in order to thrive.

We send special "get well" messages to J.C. Blinson who underwent knee surgery and to Margaret Lee Blinson who was hospitalized at Johnston Memorial for medical problems. We miss them both from our fellowship. We were also saddened to hear of the

Rev. Billy Nowell's health emergency and pray he is soon on the road to recovery. He was just cooking up those burgers at the Children's Home for us!

Glenda Parnell addressed the Wednesday night meeting on August 25. She wanted to praise God for what He had done for her and her family. She said her mother had given her strength to keep trying when things looked bleak. God always gives us strength and comfort; and since she has retired, she wants to take time



*The pie toss at Fun Day got messy but it was all in good fun.*

to tell others about what He has done in her life.

Youth revival ended the month of August with the Rev. John Harris of Gum Swamp Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville bringing the message. He came out of Powhatan and it was wonderful to have him back with us for the two-night revival. A theme of his message was that God does not expect perfection, just obedience. Thank you to our speaker and to the youth for bringing special music each night. Spencer Hill gave a special drum performance on Saturday night, accompanied by his father Roger on piano. Roger told the group, "This is what it's all about; whether he misses a beat or does perfect, at least he's willing to get up here and use his talent for God's glory." Amen, Roger!

Youth Sunday was a true blessing. Youth members served as teachers, special music, ushers, and even brought the morning message. Eighteen year old Daniel Cole (grandson of Bunk and Alice Cole, great-grandson of Jennings and Sallie Williams) addressed the congregation saying, "Yes, there is a God." A special presentation was made to the youth member of the year, Chris Bagley. He  
cont....



*The yard sale was a success, thanks to all who helped.*



## People & Events

### "Agape Feast" Celebrated

On August 22, 1999, Pleasant Plain Free Will Baptist, Selma, NC, celebrated an "Agape Feast" following Communion. During this time of fellowship, we also recognized member Letha Wall who is the most senior attending member with attendance dating back to the early 1920s. Her late husband, Hubert Cleother Wall, was also a faithful member of Pleasant Plain with 50 years of perfect attendance pins. Mrs. Wall celebrated her 90 birthday on September 9, 1999. We acknowledged her continued faithfulness with the reading of Revelation 2:10.



Mrs. Letha Wall and  
Pastor Clifford B. Harwood, Jr.

### Busy Hands..., cont....

was the choice of the youth themselves as well as the leaders. He is a senior at Clayton High School. He was captain of the YFA Bible Bowl Team, had a leading part in the play "The Gates of Heaven," is secretary of his Sunday school class, and drives himself and his younger brother to youth activities since his mother is no longer able. His lifelong friend, Jeremy Jones, read a touching tribute to him from the special edition of the Youth Newsletter; and Youth Director Wanda Benson presented him with an inspirational book signed by several of the leaders. His father was able to be with us, but his mother was in the hospital and could not be present. He read the newsletter to her that afternoon; and although she couldn't see the pictures, she understood and was proud of him. Congratulations and thank you to Chris for setting a good example of a Christian youth.

### Fall Bazaar Stony Hill Church

On September 26, 1999, Stony Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Middlesex, NC, held a Fall Bazaar which included a craft sale, bake sale, and BBQ chicken sale. To prepare for this event, the women of Stony Hill met every Tuesday night beginning in January of 1998 to make the crafts for the sale. There were many varieties of hand-made crafts ranging from Christmas ornaments, aprons, and jewelry to lamps, decorative picture frames, and cross-stitch art. Several men donated hand-crafted nativity scenes, reindeer sets, and even two rocking chairs. There were also dozens of homemade baked goods which included cupcakes, cookies, brownies, and cakes that were provided by the ladies of the church to be sold at the bake sale. The church earned approximately \$6,400 from the bake sale and craft sale. God blessed the hard work of the ladies.

The same day, a BBQ chicken plate sale was held. The people of the church sold tickets at \$5 each for a plate that included one half of a chicken, boiled potatoes, cole slaw, and bread. The plates could be taken out or eaten in the fellowship building where iced tea was provided. Approximately 1,700 plates were sold that busy day. To prepare all of this food, 600 pounds of cabbage were chopped for cole slaw and 800 pounds of potatoes were peeled for boiled potatoes. Ten pig cookers were lit with charcoal fires at 7 AM and 1,750 chicken halves were completed cooking by noon. The men supervised the BBQ chicken sale and did a lot of hard work. The sale of BBQ chicken earned \$6,000 for the church. The effort of the ladies and men of Stony Hill provided many people with a great Southern meal. The entire church body worked throughout the year to prepare for this event. Men, women, young, and old worked together to earn money to further the cause of our new Family Life Center. Although Stony Hill earned \$12,400 for a hard day's work, God blessed the church with a wonderful day of fellowship and an outpouring of support from the community. The money earned from this successful day will greatly help to build the Family Life Center that will provide countless opportunities for God's people to gather and worship.

### Special Thanks

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your response to my letter in *The Free Will Baptist*. I made so many wonderful new friends and some from our churches in the 1930s.

I also received money which I had not asked for. I am trying to respond to them personally. May God bless each one that I have heard from. Continue to pray for me because the old devil is trying to defeat me. I have had a nervous break-down, was put under lock and key with blinds drawn and no one allowed to see me. As usual, through constant prayer to the Lord Jesus Christ, I am better. Maybe I can get control and start my book now!

Please pray, pray, pray! I love you all!

Love and Prayers,  
Rose G. Bowen



### *"Living Prayer" Website Begins*

Monday, August 30, at noon eastern time, the first non-pornographic, 24 hour /7 day "live" internet site in the world began broadcasting from St. Petersburg. BK Media which produces programming for Christian television stations nationwide will launch "Live Prayer" at [www.liveprayer.com](http://www.liveprayer.com). This unique website is 100% free and will feature a live pastor 24 hours a day to pray for people as well as a chatroom to discuss spiritual matters.

Those who access the site will be able to call in their requests on the phone so that people watching will be able to hear the requests as well as the prayer, or they can E-mail their requests in for the pastor to read and then pray for.

Live Prayer will use pastors from various denominations and is not a vehicle to preach or debate theological issues, but simply a site for people to go to when they need prayer. Ironically, Live Prayer will be transmitted through the same equipment used for the infamous voyeurdorm website, and project over 3.5 million hits the first year.

BK Media president Bill Keller's vision for Live Prayer is to have a place on the internet for people to go when they are hurting, and looking for answers. Now, there will be a place where anyone in the world who has internet access can go anytime, day or night, and have a live human being that they can see and hear pray for whatever needs they might have.

For further information, you can contact Bill Keller at 727-420-7005, via Fax at 757-585-2239, or Email at [bkmedia316@aol.com](mailto:bkmedia316@aol.com).

### **Homecoming Scheduled**

Pleasant Plain Homecoming will be observed Sunday, October 10. The Rev. Clifford B. Harwood, pastor, will deliver the morning message. The Servants Heart will sing. A picnic lunch will be served at the noon hour.

The church is located at 1991 Old Beulah Road, Selma, NC.

### *The Carroll's to Present Program at Living Waters*

The Carroll's, singers, and puppets will be ministering on Sunday, October 24, 1999, 10:45 AM, at Living Waters Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC. Appealing to both young and old, it will be a program no one will want to miss. The Church is located on the Pikeville-Princeton Highway about 3 1/2 miles west of Pikeville, NC. Pastor D.M. Smith also invites everyone to a Homecoming meal right after the service. For more information, call (919) 734-4498.

## **Plan to be a part of the New Year's Eve Celebration! 2000**

**Mount Olive College**

**December 31, 1999**

**8:00 PM until 12:00 MIDNIGHT**

**Special Music and Presentation by Biney English Ministries**

**All AFC's and YFA's are invited to attend!**

**You don't want to miss this special Cross Raising at Midnight!  
(Registration information will be coming next month.)**

**Camp Meeting**

**"Celebrate Jesus 2000"**

**scheduled for September 26-30, 1999 at Cove City, NC  
will be rescheduled at a later date.**

# People & Events

## Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists Dates and Information for Your Calendar

October 1–2, 1999. FFA Camp, White Lake, NC, Leadership Conference. One adult leader and two YFA members per church, encouraged to attend. Theme: Jesus on Leadership. Registration forms are out; see your district leader for more information.

December 31, 1999, Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptist New Year's Eve Program. Never before has this been done by Free Will Baptists. Registration forms will be in the hands of the district leaders in September. Make plans now to bring your young people for a great night.

May 19–21, 2000, Mount Olive College, Youth Convention weekend. Key note person for the weekend will be Stuart Hall. He is with Dash Student Leadership. Stuart was at our 1999 convention and presented Challenge 2000 on Saturday afternoon. Make your plans and start praying for a great Convention. If you attend, you will receive a blessing.

Public speaking theme year 2000. "Becoming a Servant Leader." Scripture Reference — Luke 14:7–11 and Exodus 18:17–23.

Bible Bowl study guide for 1999/2000 is Moses.

### AFC and YFA Memory Verses

Exodus 2:23, 24	Numbers 20:12
Exodus 7:17	Deuteronomy 1:8
Exodus 12:29	Deuteronomy 4:29
Exodus 14:13	Deuteronomy 5:1
Exodus 15:2	Deuteronomy 5:32
Leviticus 19:2	Deuteronomy 11:1
Leviticus 20:24	Deuteronomy 29:9

### YFA Only Memory Verses

Exodus 1:8–10
Deuteronomy 34:10, 11
Deuteronomy 32:52
Deuteronomy 31:12

### 1999/2000 BIBLE BOWL STUDY GUIDE

Israel's Bondage	Exodus 1:1–14
Pharaoh's Great Sin	Exodus 1:15–22
Birth of Moses	Exodus 2:1–10
Moses Kills an Egyptian and Flees to Midian	Exodus 2:11–25
The Burning Bush	Exodus 3:1–22
God Equips Moses for Leadership	Exodus 4:1–17
Moses Returns to Egypt	Exodus 4:18–23
Moses and Aaron Before Pharaoh	Exodus 5:1–19
The Covenant Renewed with Moses	Exodus 5:22 — 6:13
Moses before Pharaoh with Rod	Exodus 7:1–13
The First Plague (Water turned to Blood)	Exodus 7:14–25
Plague of Frogs, Lice, and Flies	Exodus 8:1–32
Plague of Murrain, Boils and Hail	Exodus 9:1–35
Plague of Locust and Darkness	Exodus 10:1–20
Death of First Born Threatened	Exodus 11:1–10
Passover Instituted	Exodus 12:1–28
Death of First Born	Exodus 12:29–30
Pharaoh Sends Israelites Away	Exodus 12:31–42
Pillar of Cloud and Pillar of Fire	Exodus 13:17–22
Passage through the Red Sea	Exodus 14:1–25
Pharaoh and His Army Drowns	Exodus 14:26–31
Bitter Water Made Sweet	Exodus 15:22–27
Manna Provided for Israel	Exodus 16:1–36
Water From a Rock	Exodus 17:1–7
Battle of Amalek	Exodus 17:8–16
Jethro (Moses' Father in Law)	Exodus 18:1–7
Mt. Sinai	Exodus 19:1–25
Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1–20
Blood of the Covenant	Exodus 24:1–18
Offerings for the Tabernacle	Exodus 25:1–8
The Ark of the Covenant	Exodus 25:10–22
The Table	Exodus 25:23–30
The Candlestick	Exodus 25:31–40
The Tabernacle	Exodus 26:1–6, 30–37
The Golden Calf	Exodus 32:1–35
God's Anger, Moses Pleads for His People	Exodus 33:1–23
Moses Puts Final Touches on Tabernacle	Exodus 40:17–33
The Glory of the Lord	Exodus 40:34–38
Silver Trumpets	Numbers 10:1–10
The Departure from Sinai	Numbers 10:11–13, 29–36
The Budding of Aaron's rod	Numbers 17:1–13
Moses's Great Sin	Numbers 20:2–13
The Appointment of Joshua	Deuteronomy 31:1–8
Teaching the Law of Moses	Deuteronomy 31:9–13
God's Charge to Joshua and Moses	Deuteronomy 31:14–23
The Law of Moses is Added to the Ark	Deuteronomy 31:24–29
Death of Moses	Deuteronomy 34:1–12





Dr. Pepper Worthington

# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Max Lucado, *On the Anvil: Stories On Being Shaped Into God's Image*. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 1985.

## Introduction

Max Lucado wrote a weekly article for the church bulletin when he was an associate minister of a downtown church in Miami, Florida. He reworked the articles while he was a missionary in Rio de Janeiro. Those new pieces form the text of his book. His stories have a special appeal, because they come from his own experience and observations.

## Sad Stories

The story of a 45-year-old New York Supreme Court judge, Joseph Crater, reminds us of the weariness that can lead to desperation. Billie Sicard's despair when she lost her 12-year-old son, George, also reminds us of the need to make our peace with death. Lucado states: "Her life stands as a quiet legacy to us all. Man must have something larger than death...or death takes man" (14). Another sad story draws us into the introverted, shy, and reclusive John Hinckley, Jr. Lucado observes: "Our world has little room for failures. Our success-centered enterprise system is ideal for the successful but devastating for the loser. In an effort to create winners, we also create misfits" (16-17).

## Lives on the Anvil

When a tool is on the anvil, it is there to be melted, molded, and changed. Life face to face with a thump can "reveal the nature of a heart" (52). Stories reveal the refinement of lives from the story of the high school football coach who would go to the press box in the middle of the third quarter. Why? He went to the press box to get a perspective, because he was too close to the game on the field. Lucado tells the story of George who called his friend Ralph his buddy and his "most valued possession" (69). Lucado insists: "Our Master knew the value of a relationship. It was through relationships that he changed the world. His movement thrived not on personality or power but on championing the value of a person" (70). He adds: "The most important element in the world is another human being" (86).

## Instruments for Noble Purposes

To be an instrument for noble purposes, a person must be able to communicate. Lucado tells the wonderful story of Albert Einstein at Princeton. Apparently, a scientist gave an obscure lecture. Lucado notes: "Einstein would rise after the lecturer and ask whether he might put a question. He would then go to the blackboard and begin to explain in simple terms what the lecturer had been talking about. 'I wasn't quite sure I understood you correctly,' he would say with great gentleness, and then would make clear what the lecturer had been unable to convey" (120-121).

To be an instrument for noble purposes, a person must be faithful and loyal. Ben Franklin said: "Be slow in choosing friends and be even slower in leaving them" (127). Faithfulness and loyalty has no room for bitter gossip, for hardened indifference, or for brutal rejection.

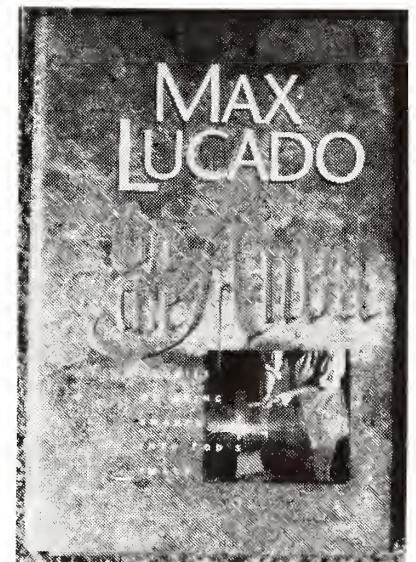
## Time on God's Anvil

What should time on God's anvil do for us or to us? Lucado states: "Time on God's anvil should...clarify our mission and define our purpose. When a tool emerges from a blacksmith's anvil, there is no question as to why it was made. One look at the tool and you instantly know its function...As a human being emerges from the anvil of God, the same should be true" (162-163).

## Conclusion

Max Lucado has given us a glimpse into three types of tools: tools on the junkpile, tools on the anvil, and tools of usefulness. His metaphor of the tools reminds us that we are like these tools. We can be broken, numb, and damaged. We can be changed. We can also be fine-tuned for a life of meaning and purpose. Carl Jung reminds us in his essay, "The Spiritual Problem of Modern Man," that we must seek to "reconcile ourselves to the mysterious truth that the spirit is the life of the body seen from within, and the body the outward manifestation of the life of the spirit."

Thus, we in this century feel the work of God's anvil upon ourselves, and we hope that our body will be shaped, strengthened, and secured by the rich presence of the Holy Spirit that affirms all life.



***On the Anvil Stories on Being Shaped Into God's Images* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore: AYDEN, KINSTON, NEW BERN, AND WILSON**



# CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning  
Free Union  
Free Will Baptist Church

Source: *Christ Washing the Feet of His Disciples* from the *Ingeburg Psalter of Denmark*. Unknown French Artist. Musee Condi, Chantilly France. Tempera on vellum 6 x 8 inches. From Richard Mühlberger, *The Bible in Art: The New Testament*. New York: Portland House, 1990, pp. 110–111.

## Introduction

In the Christian art from the *Ingeburg Psalter of Denmark*, we see a reference to John 13:1–17 in what has become a hallmark of Original Free Will Baptist faith: “Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciple’s feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter; and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast not part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”

The Christian art demonstrates the Original Free Will Baptist practice commonly known as the feet-washing tradition. The biblical foundation for the feet-washing service is solidly stated in the Gospel of John. Original Free Will Baptists consider as doctrine the washing of the saint’s feet as one of the three ordinances of the Gospel, the other two being Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. The Original Free Will Baptist doctrine reads: “Washing of Saint’s Feet: We believe that this is a sacred ordinance, which teaches humility, the necessity of the servanthood of every believer, and reminds the believer of the necessity of a daily cleansing from all sin. It was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ as an “example” on the night of His Last Supper and betrayal” (*The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptist*, Ayden: Free Will Baptist Press, P. 54).

This ordinance is unique among Protestant believers, for some of the Old Order Brethren and General Baptists, associated with the Amish and the Original Free Will Baptists, are thought to be the only group to continue this sacred tradition instituted by Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. We see in this ordinance a mirroring of the action of Christ, literally in the washing of feet and symbolically as a servant. In the desire to serve, the participant wishes external cleanliness as well as internal cleanliness as both teaches humility and the necessity of servanthood, not a popular concept in the modern day. Humility and servanthood become the hallmark of this sacred ordinance.

The discussion of this Christian art work of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples will be in two parts. This first part will focus upon the discussion between Christ and Peter. The second part of the review of the Christian art will include the reaction of the disciples and our relationship to them as Original Free Will Baptists as depicted in the art.

## Artistic Style

This Christian art is an illustration for a manuscript, its original size being 6 by 8 inches. This thirteenth-century style is like a miniature classical mural painting where the outside edge of the image is outlined in black like a coloring book and the interior portion is colored and shaded to round the form and show the detail. The shape and musculature of the body is quite simple. Most of the concentration has been upon the depiction of the





## CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

clothing: the folds, drapings, and shadings. However, there is a remarkable uniformity to the faces. For example, Peter's face mirrors that of Jesus with the exception that his hair is cut shorter. Peter seems to be making a strange gesture with his right hand, almost making a salute as if a soldier or as one who is shading the eye to see down a great distance.

### Symbolism

What have become the symbols of the feet-washing for us as Original Free Will Baptists are clearly shown in the illustration. We see that according to Scripture that Jesus has girded himself around the waist with a towel. The basin is on a small stand at a convenient height for the feet to be dipped. The basin and the towel around the waist are as familiar to Original Free Will Baptist as the KJV of the Bible which describes the sacred ordinance. The circular halo or identification around Peter's head and that of the depiction of Jesus are merely symbols so we can clearly identify first the holiness of Jesus and next the hallmark of the cross of Jesus. The circular symbol for Peter contains also the redness of the cross, this being another symbol of the cross that Peter and the believer must also carry.

### Conclusion

The first part of the Christian art review highlights the love and servitude of Christ for Peter as an example to the believer of Christ's desire for love and service to be a hallmark of all believers as clearly as His hallmark is the cross.

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## Notice to all Churches Affected by Hurricane Floyd and Related Flooding

In response to the devastation visited on our community by Hurricane Floyd, Church Finance Association is now offering a Disaster Relief Loan. All costs and fees associated with this loan are being paid by CFA and the current interest rate is 4.00%. All applications will be fast tracked and funds will be available upon arrival. For additional information or application please contact.

**Donald Fader**  
252-523-5800

## *Conforming to the Word* *Romans 12:1-2*

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

One of the definitions of the word *conform* is: "To become similar in form or character."

In Verse 2 Paul said, "...be not conformed to this world." Yet, as I listen to gospel music I hear the weird sounds and beats of worldly music, which is designed to getting people worked-up sensually. I see people go into worship services in God's house dressed in worldly attire. I see a lot of activities that have nothing to do with winning lost souls to Christ.

I was appalled recently as I attended a Free Will Baptist function and was approached with the question, "Do you want to buy a chance..." An item was being raffled.

*The American College Dictionary* and *Funk and Wagnall's Standard Dictionary* define raffle as: "A form of lottery in which something put up as a prize goes to someone among a number of persons buying chances to win it."

We would very quickly criticize and even condemn someone for going to Las Vegas or Atlantic City and buying a chance to win at a poker table, blackjack table, or any other game of chance. Yet it is okay if it is done, as I was told, "for Jesus."

I John 2:15 says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Instead of being molded by the values of the world, we must be transformed by the precious Holy Spirit of God. We do not have to depend on the ways of the world or the people of the world to finance God's work.

Maybe the reason that it is so hard to reach the lost today is that the church is becoming so similar in form and character that the people of the world see no need to change. If our actions do not honor Christ, we cannot expect them to want to change.

The key to non-conformity is to "...be renewed in the spirit of your mind" (Ephesians 4:23). Satan may be a powerful creature, but he does not have the power to make us do one single thing that we do not want to do. Without the power of the Holy Spirit in us, we are all subject to conforming to the values of the world.

Original Free Will Baptist have a great heritage, one that I am proud to claim.

James Gurganus

Pastor Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church, Morehead City, NC.

# Hurricane Floyd — An Urgent Plea! Disaster Relief

Churches, church groups, and individuals who desire to aid Original Free Will Baptists who suffered damage and loss during Hurricane Floyd and its aftermath may send the donations to:  
Hurricane Floyd Disaster Relief  
Board of Home Missions and Evangelism  
Post Office Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513

Those who wish to donate items (toiletries, paper towels, cleansers, mops, brooms, linens, etc.) may send or bring them to the Headquarters located at 811 N. Lee Street, Ayden, NC.

Anyone who can help in a clean-up work crew, please contact the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism at 252-746-4963 or fax 252-746-7993.

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NOVEMBER 1999



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Year's  
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Nation Under  
Persia*

.....  
*Billy Graham on  
Faith in God*





*C. H. Overman*

## Floyd's Fury

As Hurricane Floyd churned its way northwest in the Atlantic with wind speeds of over one hundred forty miles per hour, all of eastern U.S. wondered where it would strike. Eastern North Carolinians were still reeling from the wind and rain of the two strikes of Hurricane Dennis as it dumped as much as ten inches of rain in many areas. With the convening of the annual session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists at Mount Olive College only a few days away, many prayed that this storm would change its course or at least lose some of its punch. It did both. When it made landfall near Wilmington, NC, its top winds were about 110 miles per hour and it had turned in a north and then slightly northeast direction, taking it inland across the eastern coastal plain of our state. Huge oak trees were toppled as well as many other kinds of trees. Grounds were saturated from the heavy rains. Shingles were ripped from roof tops. As the winds decreased during the morning of September 16, we felt, as with most hurricanes, that the worse was over. In the hours and days that followed, however, we slowly came to grips with the meaning of such terms as "flood stage" and "flood crest."

The Convention, which began on the evening of September 14 with the Night of Evangelism, came to an abrupt end by noon on Wednesday, as the decision was made to take care of all necessary matters, proceed with the regularly scheduled worship service, and bring the Convention to a close no later than 12:00 NOON. To the credit of the Convention officials, all matters were handled properly, and the decision to shorten the Convention proved to be a wise decision as the winds and rain continued to pound across the region. Thus, the Eighty-seventh Session of the Convention has gone down in history as the shortest session on record. In a joking mood, some remarked that we now know how to shorten the Convention.

Since the early nineties, floods have ravaged parts of the United States. We watched the devastation of the floods on TV in the Midwest and later the floods in southern Georgia. We learned that some of our Free Will Baptists associated with the Paul Palmer Association had been affected by the floods in southern Georgia. When an appeal was made through the Convention office to aid these people, we traveled to the area, taking money and goods that had been collected from our churches. While there, we (the Rev. James Owens and I) visited several of the previously flooded areas. What we saw was the aftermath. It was difficult to realize that buildings could

be inundated and that others, because of contamination, would be stripped of all furnishings and inner walls.

I wondered, "Could it happen in my part of the world — in Eastern North Carolina?" During the last three weeks (at the time of this writing), we learned that it can happen anywhere when enough rain falls in a short period of time, flooding first the small streams, then the larger ones, and then the major rivers.

A common remark has been, "It's unbelievable." We have now come to grips with reality. We have observed and experienced massive flooding in areas thought impossible, and with untold destruction. Lives have been uprooted; homes have been lost; farmland and crops have been ruined; livestock has perished; many lives, both young and old, have been scarred. Miles and miles of water covered the land. Areas near any of the major rivers and streams experienced massive flooding. Entire sections of towns are abandoned as ghost towns, waiting for possible rebuilding and remodeling. Recovery from Hurricane Floyd will be longterm. Its scars will remain across the land for many years, but as with all natural disasters, the human spirit and will survives. Lives and homes and businesses and farms will ultimately be put back together.

In spite of the negative side of this storm and its aftermath, there has been a positive side. People have helped people. Thousands of stories can be told — the rescue of thousands of people from the fast-flowing flood waters by volunteers and the National Guard, the outpouring of concern and aid that followed as food and supplies reached the victims of the flood, and the teams of workers who have volunteered their time and energies to help families begin the recovery process. The American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, FEMA, etc., all are playing a vital role in helping victims. The distribution centers where food, clothing, etc., are available has proven that in a time of crisis there are those who care.

Previously, the biggest flood to come to the Greenville, NC, area was the flood of 1919. The flood of 1999 topped that flood by five feet. History may record this flood as the flood of the century, or the biggest flood during the past 500 years, or perhaps the flood of this millennium. It will not soon be forgotten, but healing will take place. Readers, please remember the victims of this flood in your prayers. Remember, however, the answer to your prayers may be fulfilled through you.



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**NEXT MONTH**

*December Is  
 Foreign  
 Missions  
 Month*

*November Is  
 Children's Home  
 Month*

## *Seclusion With the Saviour*

by the Rev. Travis K. Sturgill

*There had come a time in the life of Jesus Christ when He wanted to be alone, secluded, with His Father.*

*The American Heritage College Dictionary* defines seclusion as “being set apart and away from outside contact; private.” Being alone and away from others is a concept that is embraced by some and feared by others. There are times when being alone and away from all that is going on is wonderful, and at other times we desire and need the company of people and places.

Seclusion is a concept that each of us should embrace, especially as it relates to our relationship with Jesus Christ. Don't be alarmed! By no means is it intended that we forget about gathering at church, nor should we remove ourselves from our current place on earth in order to go to a distant jungle and live off the land. But there are times in each of our lives when we should enter into seclusion with the Saviour. Most Christians are accustomed, and thankfully so, to going to church and assembling together with others to worship. Many of the same Christians, however, seem oblivious to the concept of private time with God. Failure to spend time in seclusion with God is contrary to Christ's example, and the Scriptures.

Jesus Christ, the example of perfect living for every Christian, enjoyed speaking and gathering publicly. He taught and proclaimed the gospel before many people and was no stranger to crowds. We too, should be eager to gather publicly and exhort one another as the Scriptures command (Hebrews 10:25). But Jesus also understood the importance of private, personal communication with His Father.

In the Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 26, beginning in Verse 36, we find Christ and His disciples on the Mount of Olives. We are told, “Then cometh Jesus with them unto the place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, ‘Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.’” From that point, Christ took with Him three of His closest friends, Peter, James, and John even further into the

garden with Him. However, in Verse 38, we read, “...tarry ye here....” There had come a time in the life of Jesus Christ when He wanted to be alone, secluded, with His Father. Nestled away in the Mount of Olives was this lush garden where Jesus lead His disciples, and then removed Himself from their presence in order to have divine privacy. We are told that there Jesus prayed with great agony, knowing that the time of His death was swiftly approaching. Despite the demands of the people, despite the requests of His friends, Christ knew His Father was the only One with whom He could find peace at this all important impasse of life.

We should all be thankful for family, friends, and church fellowship, but there are times in each of our lives when we need desperately to follow this example of Christ. Leave the friends, family, and church fellowship behind for a few moments and enter into seclusion with God. Praying, as Christ did, “...not as I will, but as thou wilt” (v. 39). This allows us to be away from the distractions, the schedules, the activities, and be at one with our Creator and Redeemer. He will reveal His will for our lives, and we shall leave that time of seclusion refreshed and ready to return to our daily routines.

Christ not only gave us an example of private prayer, He also commands that we do so. In Matthew 6:6, Christ instructs; “...when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” In this verse Christ is teaching to refrain from praying to be heard of others, or as a display for personal glorification. The truth of the matter is that regardless of how we act or appear in public, when we are alone with God there are no excuses, no need for any front, nor can anything be hid. What a sweet feeling it is to close the door, bow down, and communicate with God Almighty on a personal and private



# A Thanksgiving Party With a Purpose: Making One Big Family Out of Little Ones

Marlene LeFever

This hospitality idea is not just intended to encourage a group of friends to have a dandy time together. Instead it is designed to meet at least one of the following objectives:

- To give Christians a tool to reach out to our unbelieving friends and neighbors, to open the possibility of Jesus Christ to them through a planned hospitality event in our home or church.

- To grow friendships among church people through a hospitality event in our home or the church, building up the family of God.

**Objective:** Singles, small families, and foreign families without Thanksgiving traditions will combine resources at a Thanksgiving meal. Together everyone will praise God for His bounty this year.

**Basic idea:** Everyone will provide one dish to add to the Thanksgiving meal; the host family will supply the turkey. By combining resources, the meal will not be expensive.

My husband Jack and I decided to go through the church directory and invite all the singles, foreign families, and small families. We figured nearly everyone would have a place to go already, so we could safely invite as many as we wanted to.

We were flabbergasted when the calls began to arrive.

"Thanks so much," a woman from Australia said. "We'll all come. We were wondering how Americans did this holiday, but we never thought we'd be able to find out."

"I'll be there with the kids," another woman said, "I didn't have money for the trip to my folks' place in Georgia. It's great to have something special to do close to home."

A guy announced that he'd bring real mashed potatoes. "I was feeling a little family-less," he said.

This Thanksgiving party is the one we've had where I have no idea how many people actually showed up. It was in the neighborhood of sixty, give or take a dozen kids. When the crowd filled our place, Diana, the neighbor across the hall, opened her doors for the overflow. Then the lady upstairs opened her place. Thank goodness we lived in an apartment building! A house would never have been big enough.

**Nametags:** A must! Ours were little drawings of fat pilgrims. Each said, "In case you've forgotten, I'm \_\_\_\_\_."

**Choral Reading:** Before the meal, we gave all readers a copy of a Thanksgiving choral reading. We had contacted a few friends before the meal, and they were ready with short personal statements.

*Host:* Lord, You have poured out amazing blessings on this land! You have poured down your blessings on the land and it yields its bountiful crops.

*All:* Lord, You have poured out amazing



cont....

## Seclusion with the Saviour, cont....

basis. Praying aloud in church services or at meetings is wonderful, and we should take every opportunity we have to seek God in prayer, but seclusion with the Saviour is something all together different.

Personal worship, cleansing, and renewal are needed today more than

ever before. Yet, a fast-paced society has pushed us farther and farther away from our "prayer closets." Allow me to challenge your heart with the Word of God. Enter into your closet and enjoy a time of seclusion with your Saviour! He has promised

to reward you. If you do not have a place where you can shut yourself away, establish one, you'll be glad you did! In a time when more and more people are "coming out of the closet," you and I as believers need to spend more time inside one, praying!

## A Thanksgiving Party With a Purpose..., cont....

blessings on this land! Now bring us back to loving You.

*Friend:* Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Give a joyous shout in honor of our God!

*All sing:* "Come Ye Thankful People Come."

*Hostess:* God said, "What I want from you is your true thanks."

*Friend:* Father, I thank You because... (This person should complete the sentence with a personal reason she has for thanking the Lord this year.)

*All:* Sing your praise accompanied by music from the harp. Let the comets and trumpets shout! Make a joyful symphony before the Lord, our King! Let the sea in all its vastness roar with praise! Let the earth and all those living on it shout, "Glory to the Lord."

*Friend:* Glory to the Lord! Let the waves clap their hands in glee, and the hills sing out their songs of joy before the Lord.

*Friend:* Father, I praise You because...

*Friend:* Glory to the Lord.

*Friend:* Father, I praise You because...

*All:* Sing the doxology, perhaps to one of the newer melodies, as the Thanksgiving prayer.

And then we ate! There was more than enough for all. Jack had made two turkeys, and their total forty pounds was perfect. Actually, with all the great things others brought, I don't think anyone would have minded if we had run out of turkey.

Some of our neighbors were older women who were spending the holidays with their children. When they heard about our enormous party, four people offered their door keys and oven even though they wouldn't be able to attend.

Don't skip a little Thanksgiving program and head immediately for the turkey. For four years, I planned a Thanksgiving in September for a group of Christians from developing nations who were in the states for training. The first year, I figured I'd be busy with the food so I suggested a friend handle the Thanksgiving-specific stuff. She prayed and thanked God for the food. For the foreign guests, the meal was just a big American spread. They never heard about its history or its significance to Americans and Canadians, or, most especially, the added significance Christians give to it. They stuffed themselves, following our example, I'm sure. But they never were rewarded spiritually. The next three years, I gave the food to friends to prepare and I handled the program. Thanksgiving is a concept I'd like to share with friends around the world.

**Pilgrim Scavenger Hunt:** In between the main course and the dessert, we needed to clear dozens of people out of the apartment for a few minutes so we would have space to reorganize. So the entire group was divided into Pilgrim Scavenger Hunt groups. Children were all included. For

some adults, especially those without kids, it was the first time they had worked hand in hand with youngsters. It was fun to see these randomly chosen people become competitive, enthusiastic groups. They all left cheering and insisting that their group would be back first with all the items needed to win the Pilgrim Scavenger Hunt.

Here's the scavenger hunt list we used. It is adapted to the area in which we lived — about two blocks from a railroad track in a suburban community. Change anything you couldn't find in your community.

### *Pilgrim Scavenger Hunt*

1. One wild turkey feather or unreasonable facsimile.
2. A Pilgrim's Pet Rock. Be prepared to demonstrate a trick it can do.
3. Ten different types of leaves from the dense forests here about.
4. One forked stick that would be perfect for killing snakes.
5. One piece of post-Indian litter.
6. One hat camouflaged to avoid detection in hostile Indian territory.
7. One coin of this kingdom.
8. One Thanksgiving carol sung before a neighbor's house. Have astonished neighbor sign his/her name here (not that Pilgrims are not to be trusted!) \_\_\_\_\_.
9. One musket ball or one round button.
10. Any tree's berry.
11. Any small weed — roots and all — that grows down by the iron horse's tracks.
12. A four-line poem in rhyming couplet about Thanksgiving.
13. Number of steps around our settlement (this block): \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Piece of wood to add to winter's fuel supply.
15. A friendly hello to a Pilgrim stranger on the street. Name of the thrilled person: \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Names of all churches within five minutes of our front door.
17. Scalp count — one gray hair, one brown hair, one blond hair, one red hair.
18. Scout around — one thumbprint in a mud ball.
19. Pilgrim panic — something growing outside that you could eat in a pinch.
20. Anything that rhymes with pie — and come back for dessert!

I had the first group back to show what they had collected then I awarded them each chocolate turkeys.

However, people from the losing groups were still complaining months later that they had written wonderful rhyming couplets and developed excellent rock tricks that they hadn't had an opportunity to show off. So if you copy

cont....



# Hurricane Floyd Shortens This Year's Convention



*Delegates, ministers, and church leaders respond to Nationwide Call to Prayer by signing the Prayer Commitment.*

The Eighty-Seventh Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, meeting at Mount Olive College on September 14-16, 1999, was able to complete its usual business before retreating from the threat of Hurricane Floyd. The delegates, ministers, and visitors who were in attendance found it rather difficult to truly focus on the matters of the Convention, with the uncertainty of the impending storm. On Tuesday evening, however, the Night of Evangelism service was well attended and all listened attentively to the message of Dr. Larry Lewis, National Facilitator for Mission America, as he presented the challenges of "Celebrate Jesus 2000." It was during this session that the Convention officials announced that the Convention would end on Wednesday at 4:00 PM. As the storm drew closer and the rain increased in many areas overnight, by early Wednesday morning, before the first Convention session began, the decision was made to finish all

pertinent matters by noon.

The ministry directors and others reporting were asked to limit their oral reports to one or two brief remarks. Delegates were reminded that all the reports were printed in the Program and Annual Report Booklet, and all were adopted with one collective vote. Other committee and commission reports were presented and received in the same manner. The

morning worship service was allowed its scheduled time. Dr. Larry Lewis delivered the message during this service relating to Celebrate Jesus 2000. The Wednesday evening Mission Rally was canceled, as well as the Thursday morning worship service.

Much time and effort were spent in preparing for this year's Convention, with the main focus centering around the theme, "The Call to the Harvest." Celebrate Jesus 2000 appropriately provided the impetus in reaping the harvest of souls as we enter the new era.

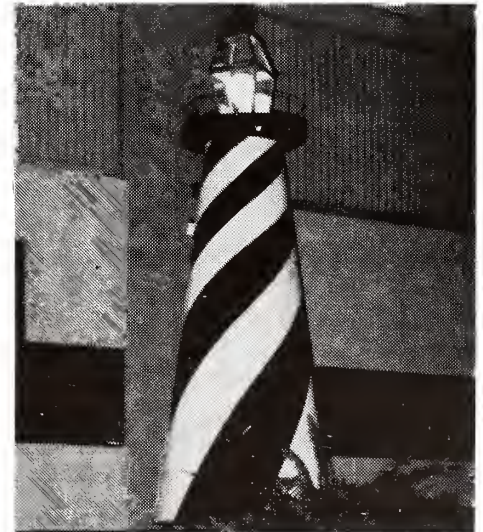
The ministry displays which were set up on Tuesday were quickly dismantled on Wednesday afternoon. By early afternoon all delegates, ministries, etc., were on their way home, with regrets that the forces of nature brought the Eighty-Seventh Session of the Convention to an abrupt close. The Convention President, the Rev. Leon Grubbs, the Convention officers, and the General Administrator, the Rev. David C.



*Dr. Larry Lewis*

Hansley, are to be commended for the hard decisions that had to be made and for their excellent handling of the entire shortened session.

Churches may request copies of the program and Annual Report Booklet by contacting the Convention Headquarters, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, or by calling 252-746-4963.



*All were encouraged to join the Lighthouse Movement by making each home a Lighthouse in praying, caring, and sharing the message of salvation in their communities.*

## *A Thanksgiving Party With a Purpose..., cont....*

our Thanksgiving party, don't copy our mistakes. Wait until all groups are back, and then allow creative people from each group to share what they have done.

*Excerpt from Parties With a Purpose: Laying the Groundwork for Discipleship & Evangelism by Marlene LeFever, Cook Ministry Resources. Marlene is the Director of Church Relations for David C. Cook Church Ministries. She is also the author of Creative Teaching Methods and Learning Styles. Used by permission.*

# ON FACING A CRISIS

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus  
Mount Olive College

"Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart... If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all," (Isaiah 7:4a, 9b. All Biblical quotations in this article are from the New International Version.)

Hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes teach us that there are some things in life beyond our control. Although we may know days in advance that a hurricane is headed our way, there is no way we can change its course. Moreover, there is no absolute safe haven. In the central states there are no hurricanes, but there are tornadoes; and on the West Coast there are earthquakes.

Situations beyond our control are not limited to nature. There are other circumstances which threaten our inner life just as the storms of nature threaten our physical well-being. These threats may include a financial crisis, a breakdown in our health, failure in family life and in our work, or the death of someone whom we love more than ourselves. If we temporarily escape these crises, in time there will be old age with its disabilities and loneliness.

Regardless of who we are, sooner or later we all come to a critical crossroads in life where we do not know which way to go.

## Does God Have a Message for Us When Facing a Crisis?

In the Old Testament there is the story of King Ahaz who faced a crisis which threatened his life and the security of his nation, Judah. Two neighboring countries, Israel and Syria, joined forces to make war on Judah in order to depose Ahaz. From a military point of view, Judah's army was no match for either Israel or Syria, not to mention their combined strength. "The hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind," (Isaiah 7:2b).

Ahaz was inspecting the water supply to Jerusalem when the Prophet Isaiah brought him a message from God. It was a message which contained five guidelines.

1. "*Be careful.*" In our language: Don't do anything foolish. Don't fly off the handle. Don't run off in all directions.
2. "*Keep calm.*" Don't get rattled. Don't lose your head. In the words of a familiar hymn, "Be still, my soul."
3. "*Don't be afraid.*" Don't panic. Don't throw up your hands in despair. Don't try to run away.
4. "*Do not lose heart.*" Don't give up. This was the message of Winston Churchill to England during the dark days of World War II: "We shall not flag or fail... We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."
5. "*If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all,* (Isaiah 7:9). Keep the faith — it can be the only way out of what appears to be an impossible situation. There are times when faith is the only thing that stands between us and disaster, or even death.

We can all come to the point in life when we feel stripped of our strength and hope as we stand without defense before whatever might be hurled against us. It is in these moments that we, like King Ahaz, can learn the meaning of faith. When we are healthy and prosperous, when we feel secure and self-reliant, when we feel successful and popular, faith may be

just a word for us. But when life carries us out beyond our wisdom, beyond our strength, beyond our resources, faith becomes our only hope for the future.

## The Ultimate Power of the Universe

In the Biblical sense, faith is not just believing anything — it is believing in God, believing He can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. It is when we come to see that our destiny — indeed, our very existence — is dependent upon God that we experience the power of faith. It is not who we are or what we do that saves us but what we trust God to do. God is the Ultimate Power of the Universe, and the more we trust Him, the stronger we are; the less we trust Him, the weaker we are.

From the Christian point of view, faith is staking everything on the power, love, and grace of God. If God can be trusted, nothing else matters; and if God cannot be trusted, nothing else matters. Some times life has to bring us to a crisis for us to learn this truth, but learning it is one of the most enriching experiences of the Christian life.

When the noted historian Charles A. Beard was asked if he could summarize the lessons of history in a short book, he replied that he could do so in four sentences, one of which was: "When it is dark enough you can see the stars." Perhaps that is why we put steeples on our churches — to point humankind upward to God.

"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you," (Jeremiah 32:17). Amen!



# *The Jewish Nation Under Persia*

by Edmundo G. Gonzalez

Nebuchadnezzar died in the year 562 BC. He had ruled Chaldea (Babylonia) from Babylon with an iron fist. His son Evil-merodach (Amel-Marduk) was his successor (2 Kings 25:27-30). Upon taking the throne, his first political action was to release Judah's exiled king, Jehoiachin, from prison and favorably treated above other highly ranked royalty in Babylon. Evil-merodach ruled Babylon for two short years, "lawlessly and wantonly," according to Josephus, and was killed in a plot led by his brother-in-law Nergal-sharezar (Hebrew) Nergal-Sar-usur (Babylonian) Neriglissar (Greek) [Jeremiah 39:3, 13] an army commander who had married Nebuchadnezzar's daughter. He reigned for two years and was replaced by his son Labashi Mardok who reigned almost a year.

Nabonidus, not mentioned in Scripture, usurped the throne of the young Labashi Mardok with the backing of dissident elements in Babylon. His reign brought division to Chaldea. A pagan, he, as well as his mother, were devoted to the moon-god Sin. Nabonidus sought to elevate his god to the highest position in the Babylonian pantheon. He moved his residence after early campaigns in Cilicia and Syria from the great city of Babylon to the oasis of Taima in the Arabian desert. He remained there for ten years.

Belshazzar (Bel-shar-user) crown prince and son of Nabonidus was left in Babylon to administer the affairs of state. Daniel the Prophet (Daniel 5) tells the story of this young prince. Babylon was an empire divided and unprepared to meet national emergencies. It was threatened by their longtime rival, Media. Cyrus the Persian was on the move conquering cities and kingdoms with brilliant campaigns with such intensity that it terrified the opposition. Sooner or later Cyrus would take Babylon. The question was: when?

The great Prophet Isaiah had spoken the Words of the Lord concerning Cyrus. "He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please. He will say of Jerusalem, "let it be

rebuilt" and of the temple, "let its foundations be laid" (see Isaiah 44:28). These prophetic words were not lost to the Jewish people in Chaldea. Their release would soon come. They managed to reinterpret, in the face of world events, Israel's faith. The day of Yahweh had come; what part would He play in this clashing of empires? Did He really control world historical incidents? Was vindication of His people on the horizon? All these questions were implicit in the situation created by Cyrus as he continued to defeat army after army arranged against him. The Prophet Isaiah had said that God is one God and the sovereign Lord of history. As news filtered into Babylonia of Cyrus' victories against his enemies, God would soon come to lead His flock home. Had not the prophet so proclaimed? He knew what was on the very next pages of history!

Isaiah had said that Cyrus would subdue nations before him. The list of vanquished cities, nations and empires was long and getting longer. Finally, the "ruby" of the middle east was next on the list. The Persian armies were already massed.

God Almighty played the core interest part in history, though some did not believe so. Historical events, it was claimed, were simply the continuous movement of time to its final conclusion, culminating in human deeds. Apparently, the voices of the prophets of God were lost in the intricate conclusions of man.

The very night that Belshazzar was having his feast, a direct challenge to Jehovah, he was slain (see Daniel 5:30, 31). Cyrus had ingeniously (surely by the inspiration of God) moved his military forces to the Euphrates river, channeled it and moved his armies into the city of Babylon. Cyrus took the city but it was done in the name of his uncle, Darius the Mede. The great Babylon had failed. Completely!

Cyrus was welcomed as a liberator by the Babylonians. In turn, he showed reconciliation. His political policy was different than those of other world leaders. He did not humiliate the conquered but

cont....

*The day of Yahweh had come and what part would He play in this clashing of empires?*

treated them with utmost consideration. Neither Babylon nor any of the smaller cities close to it were harmed. Direct orders were issued to Persian soldiers to refrain from demeaning the religious feelings of the population. The worship of the god Marduk, with Cyrus publicly participating, was kept in perpetuity. Cyrus had taken the hand of Marduk as a sign of his divine designation as legitimate royal king of Babylon. It is not easy to determine Cyrus' religious beliefs. He worshiped the various gods of the Babylonians, for he had no intentions of offering his newly conquered subjects. Against this background and his political and religious views known, it is not difficult to understand Cyrus' actions toward the Jewish population anxiously waiting, poised on the portals of freedom who had been there for almost seventy years. Two generations of Jews had been born in Chaldea. The returning remnant of exiles would have a difficult time adjusting to the language and cultural environment of Judah. Since the land of the Jews had not been resettled by other captive foreigners, as was the policy of ancient rulers, it was possible for the Jews to return. Cyrus respected the Jews' religious ideals as superior to those of the other nations. We can be sure that he restored to the Jewish people the vessels of the temple of God used ingloriously by Belshazzar.

In his first year as king of Babylon, Cyrus decreed that the Jewish community should be restored in Palestine. All this he put in writing; no one need guess what he wrote (2 Chronicles 36:23). Cyrus called himself the great king, but One greater than he used him to bring the Jews back to their land. A large group of people were gathered in the valley along the same river Cyrus had channeled — the Euphrates. They were getting ready to begin a long

*Cyrus called himself the great king, but One greater than he used him to bring the Jews back to their land.*

journey. Those who had been just youngsters when exiled were now old men. Others seemed ancient, whose eyes were filled with tears, joyful tears. Finally, they were going home. One man, Daniel, would not be able to return to Jerusalem. He was now too old to make the journey, or perhaps Cyrus could not spare this man from his masterly task.

The Bible gives two reports of the restoration, Ezra 1:2-4 and 6:3-5. The last portion is a collection of documents written in the Aramaic language (Ezra 4:8 to 6:18). Ezra 6:2 is in the form of a letter, detailing an oral decision of Cyrus providing for the rebuilding of the temple with ample funds from the royal treasury. It also specified limitations and specifications of the building.

Ezra 1:2-4 is in Hebrew as recorded by Ezra the scribe. Why would a king who practiced Zoroastrianism issue such an edict? The answer can only be that the hand of the God of historical events is evident. Josephus wrote differently, however. He attributes Cyrus' decision to his reading the Prophet

Isaiah's writing (Isaiah 44:28-45:7). When the king read the prophecies of the prophet, he admired the divine power of what Isaiah had foretold one hundred and fifty years before the Babylonian army destroyed the temple. Cyrus called for the leaders of the Jews and gave them the freedom to go back to their nation and rebuild the broken down city of Jerusalem and specifically the temple of God (Flavius Josephus, *antiquities of the Jews* 11. 1.2.). This statement of Josephus is doubted by some historians. The Book of Ezra simple states: "...the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia, that he made a proclamation..." (Ezra 1:1).

Ezra, Chapter 2 provides a "Schindler's list" of returnees to Jerusalem. Among them were priests, Levites, and descendants of Solomon's servants. It was a large company. This list reappears in Nehemiah Chapter 7. An account of every family was kept in writing that came out of the captivity. Each family was numbered. This was done to their honor. They had demonstrated faith and courage. They did not forsake God and their affection to their country. These were numbered in Ezra's long list. In the Lamb's book of life are numbered those that are His and no one can pluck them out of His hand.

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# CAMP VANDEMERE

OUR FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTER

Due to the recent hurricanes (Dennis and Floyd) and the flooding that they caused, Camp Vandemere is in desperate need of repair. Two buildings were lost along with most of the contents of the kitchen/dining area and the dorms. Major rebuilding and restocking need to take place, and only the grace of God will accomplish these tasks. We are looking to the friends and supporters of Camp Vandemere to come through once again as we tackle this monumental endeavor. Below is a list of needs and concerns which need to be prayerfully considered.

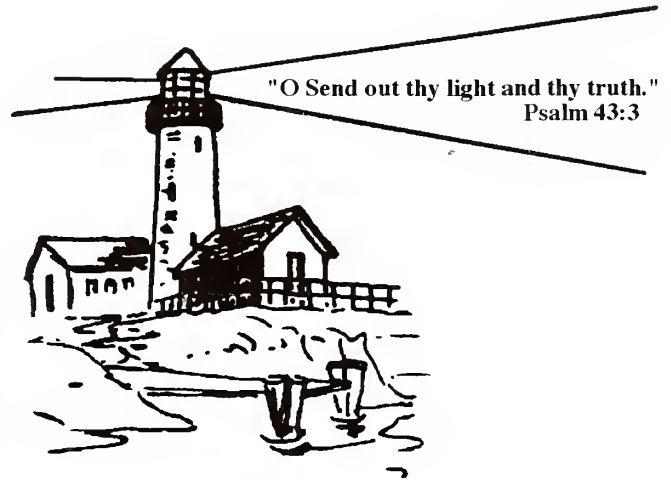
## Projects Which Can Be Adopted

- A Sunday school class or Layman's League can choose a day to clean up;
- A church can host a fund raiser for the camp;
- Specific areas of the camp (the family lodge, the dorms, the kitchen) may be adopted;
- Youth groups can save their change or can canvas the church for donations.

## Prayer Concerns

- For God's will to be done;
- For the Board of Directors as they seek to rebuild that which was destroyed;
- For the upcoming camping season and its success;
- For God to move in the hearts of people that they might give generously to the ministry of Camp Vandemere.

Camp Vandemere belongs first and foremost to Almighty God. It is by His leadership that the Camp has been established, and it is by His grace that it has continued. Throughout the years souls have been saved through the ministry of the Camp and great things have been accomplished for the kingdom of God. We trust that each one will do his/her part to make Camp Vandemere everything that it can be for the glory of God.



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## Billy Graham on Faith in God

David Frost

I once asked Billy Graham what his goal was when he took the pulpit. He replied:

"First of all, I want the content to be accurate. I want it to be biblical, and I want it to be simple. I study to be simple."

I pressed him. "Can't a message be too simple?"

"When Dr. Karl Barth, the great Swiss theologian, the greatest theologian of his generation, was visiting America a couple of years ago, he was at one of our great seminaries, and a student asked him the question, 'Dr. Barth, what is the greatest single thought that ever crossed your mind?' And he bowed his head, and puffed on his pipe, and he slowly lifted his shaggy head, and they thought some tremendous statement was coming forth, and they were all on the edge of their seats and he said,

'Jesus loves me this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.'"

*Excerpt from Billy Graham: Personal Thoughts of a Public Man, 30 years of conversations with David Frost, Chariot Victor Publishing. These conversations with David Frost aired on television over a 33 year span, stretching from the 1960s through the 1990s. Used by permission.*

# LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

On September 13, 1999, the Central Conference Layman's League met at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Williamston, NC, and was also hosted by Rose of Sharon Church. There were 18 churches present with a total attendance of 118. A delicious meal was served and enjoyed by all. Our new Central Conference President, Gary Evans, gave a splendid speech introducing himself and asking for all to join in to help him in any way to get our Central Conference Layman's League on the move for greater attendance. He stated that he was willing to listen to suggestions anyone might have to offer. Gary is from Elm Grove and can be reached at 746-4479 if you should need to contact him. Our new Central Conference Layman's League Vice President is Keith Knox.



Special music by the Gospelites of Rose of Sharon and Shelton Rouse and Doris Stevenson of First Church of Williamston joined together for an old-time expression of "Music to your ears" at Central Conference Layman's League meeting. There is nothing like good music in God's House.



The State Layman's League display at the Eighty-Seventh Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, September 15, at Mount Olive College featured views of a busy year as we try to give credit to our laymen for taking such a great interest as they have this year. "Thanks Boys." Elmer Harrell, president; Harold Humbles, secretary.



## Dates to Remember

The October 11 Executive and Promotional Board was postponed until December 2 due to Hurricane Floyd.

November 5 State Layman's League Conference, 7 PM meal, 7:45 PM business. Hosted by Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Farmville, NC.

November 15 Eastern Conference Layman's League, New Haven Free Will Baptist Church, 5 miles east of Highway 17 on State Road 1003 (also known as the Aurora Road) Askin, NC. 7 PM meal, 7:45 PM business.

December 2 Executive and Promotional Board Meeting, 7 PM, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC.

December 6 Central Conference Layman's League, 7 PM meal, 7:45 PM business. Hosted by Rose Hill Free Will Baptist Church, on County Home Road, Greenville, NC.





### CROATAN CREATES SMILES

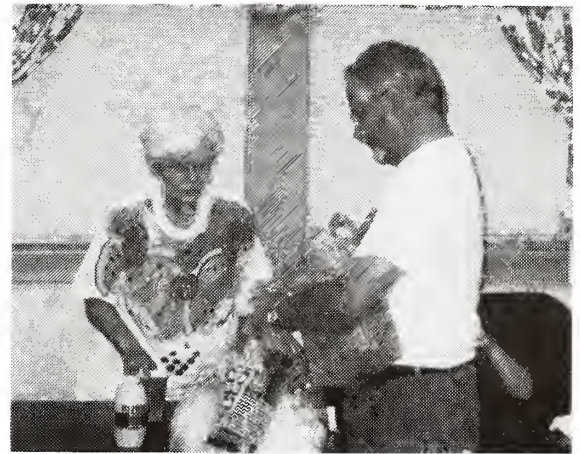
August 29 was a memorable day for the children of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. Members of Croatan FWB Church visited with the children, providing them with baskets full of various items and cash individually delivered. I never knew the eyes of the children could get so big! For your love and compassion we would like to thank each of you and a special thank you to Mrs. Brenda White for going beyond and creating a smile on each child's face that lingers even today.

### Western Youth District Contributes

On September 12, 1999, the youth group of the Western District contributed school supplies and personal items to our home. Thanks to the dedication of this group of caring hearts, we are able to meet the needs of our children. We would like to say a special thank you to Scott Lane of Union Grove, Pikeville, and Teresa Garris, youth director, for their time in delivering these supplies.

### Residents Serve Flood Victims

September 25, 1999, was an unforgettable day for the residents of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The residents and staff traveled to Fikewood Plaza in Wilson to help flood victims. While the victims of Hurricane Floyd stood in line for assistance, the residents served each person cookies and brownies they had baked themselves. Our residents let the victims know they cared and that the outcome would improve. Badges were even provided for the victims to wear, reminding them that they were in our prayers. Are we proud of our children? YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT! Many badges have been sent to churches needing encouragement. Should you know of someone needing one of the children's badges, please contact Debbie Joyner at 252-235-2161.



### WOW VISIT

Woodmen of the World, Lodge 764, Lucama, treated the children and staff to a hot dog supper on September 14, 1999. A special thanks goes to Mr. Mickey Davis and this caring group of individuals that continually support our home. Their compassion and generosity is always appreciated. Their dedication will never be forgotten.



### 26th YEAR OF CARING

Imagine continually and faithfully supporting someone for 26 years! That is exactly what our friends with the Exchange Club in Wilson has accomplished. September 13, 1999 marked the 26th year for supporting the Children's Home. The children and staff were served hot dogs and hamburgers, with all the trimmings. The children were even treated to ice cream. What smiles that created! Thanks again!



## Join Our Family Christmas

Have you ever wondered how it would feel to be unloved during Christmas? To feel alone? To be a child and spend Christmas afraid and sad?

Many of our children have felt unloved and alone; they have been afraid and sad. Many of our children have questions and doubts that, in ways, a lot of them may never fully understand. Many of them have been born into a cold, cruel world, and with a lot of people who are not ready to accept them, are not willing to support them, and are not willing to give them the love and the help they need.

This holiday season will be different and difficult for many of our children who now are not able to be with family. Many are hurting and facing serious problems. At this festive time of year we will make each and every child feel special and loved.

As we approach this season of giving, we simply ask for your support in our ministry by bringing happiness and hope into the lives of the children who most need our help. We invite you to be a part of sharing in our sponsorship program again this year. You can help by contributing \$100 for each child you would like to sponsor. Simply complete the Sponsorship Reservation form below and return it to us by December 1, 1999.

On behalf of all whose lives you will touch with your generous Christmas offering, we wish you a most blessed and joyous holiday season.



### FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children Sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut Out and Send Form to:  
Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc.  
PO Box 249  
Middlesex, NC 27557-0249



## Items In Need List:

- ♥ Paper Products
- ♥ Personal Care Items
- ♥ Parament Set
- ♥ Teen Bibles and Teen Study Bibles
- ♥ Playstations
- ♥ Encyclopedias  
(less than 10 yrs. old)
- ♥ Computers for Cottages  
(est. cost \$5000)
- ♥ Carpet Cleaning Machine
- ♥ Cordless Telephone
- ♥ Christmas Decorations  
(No Trees)
- ♥ Kitchen Accessories for Cottages
- ♥ Bicycles
- ♥ Irons and Ironing Boards
- ♥ Basketballs and Volleyballs
- ♥ Pots, Pans, and Dishes  
(10 or 12 setting)
- ♥ Alarm Clocks

You are invited to  
*Friends of Children  
Appreciation Day*

November 20, 1999  
12:00 noon

Whitley Center  
Free Will Baptist  
Children's Home Campus  
Don't forget to return your RSVP!



# Disaster Strikes North Carolina, Bulgaria and India

by Harold Jones

These are truly troublesome times. The devastation in North Carolina from the flooding is the worst disaster to ever hit this part of the state. Our hearts are broken for Free Will Baptist churches, members, and all people of Eastern North Carolina who have been affected in any way. We must pray and give as never before to help everyone recover.

At the same time, tragedies are hitting our people in other countries. Willem van der Plas wrote from Bulgaria the following about the disaster there: "It is a sorrowful time. Also here were torrents of rain and many people have damaged houses. Our roads changed in fast flooding rivers. In Balchik many roads have been destroyed by the second rain two weeks ago. The cost is millions on road repair and collapsed houses. Another warning came from the seismological institute: 'More earthquakes may be

expected in the East of Europe including Bulgaria and Turkey. The earthquakes which were in Turkey were also felt in Burgas, Varna and Balchik.' We decided to help a number of people at Targoviste to repair the roofs of their homes before the winter begins. We have made some small scale aid programs so that the people themselves can repair the most vital parts of their homes with the help of Kosta and Todor."

Dr. Lall wrote from India with a plea for help. "Our Minister In Charge in Bihar, the Rev. D. K. Wilson, could not come to the Council Meeting on September 1 despite letter and telegram sent by my office. He called on the phone yesterday stating the tragedy of heavy flooding in his lowly area. He told me that all his four congregations have suffered tremendous loss, so much so that they have nothing left to

subsist. He traveled 45 miles to call me on the phone. We are trying to send some help to our congregations in this time of agony to share their grief. I would earnestly request you to share this with the Board and extend some relief, if possible."

The people in Bulgaria and India have no one to turn to. There are no radio or television stations pleading their need, no government agencies to help, and the people around them are so poor that they cannot help.

The cancellation of the Convention Mission Rally and the flood has cut into our funding, but the Board has responded to these needs with a token response, using the funds we have on hand and trust the Lord to provide more and also meet our budget needs in the future. Please pray with us about these matters.

## A Personal Testimony

My name is Lazaro Hernandez Gomez and I am married to Ruth Garcia Ramirez. We have two children, a boy named Oscar and a girl named Sarai.

Today is August 20, 1998 and we now have had four days of feasting and we have learned something of what an encampment is all about.

Today is approximately twelve years that I arrived in Morelos. I came here in August of 1986. At that time I did not know the Lord in my heart, or better said, I was not known of Him.

When I came to this place I said, "this is a good place to make money; Morelos is for me." At that time there was already a church and there were also many people. Some united themselves with the church and the church was visited by Brother Toribio Lugo on a regular basis.

In April of 1991, God changed my

life. At that time sister Rosa was the one charged with keeping the church of Morelos.

One day she asked me to speak in the church, but it was difficult for me. But as I began to speak of whom I love and I spoke about Jesus Christ, I discovered that I did not want Morelos for me but for Jesus! That was then my petition and it is still my petition, Morelos for Jesus Christ.

A short time later I was asked to be in charge of the church. I accepted and I began to learn that this was of God. He placed in me a hunger and a thirst for Him. I prayed even up to six hours daily and read the Bible up to five hours on a daily basis. I prayed early in the morning, and could hardly wait for the hour of worship in the church so that I could speak about Jesus.



Harold, Ruth, Lazaro, Sarai, and Sandra

At that time there were a lot of people in Morelos and the church was full. One day, by order of the government, the bank no longer financed the inhabitants of this place and so the people began to leave for the city. In a short time, Morelos was left with but few people.

cont....



*A Personal Testimony, cont....*

Those who did not leave gathered in the church and prayed and sang and I meditated. "Is it the end of the church in Morelos?" Some of those who left returned to their old ways, leaving the good road of the Lord. But as for me, I purposed in my heart that whatever comes I will not leave Jesus.

One day, some North Americans came by here. They were believers and missionaries. At the end of the sermon, one of them stood and said, "Brother, I have a word for you." I asked that he

continue and tell me. He said, "I don't know how, but God has a great blessing for this place!" He said no more. I thought perhaps these were just words of encouragement for someone to feel pity for. I gave him my thanks.

At that time I did not know the plans of God for this place. In a short time later, Brother Toribio came with Brother Escobar, Brother Gonzalez, and Brother Harold Jones.

Brother Harold Jones said, "God has a great blessing for this place and we

want to be a part of that great blessing." I then remembered the American missionaries and praised the Lord for His will and Holiness for America, a nation that lends itself to God to bring many blessings to many parts of the world, to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world.

I would want, and it is my dream and prayer that also from Mexico, the gospel would go out to other parts of the world. May God grant me this before His return.

*Evangelism Campaign — June 1999*

by Dr. E.M. Lall

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15, given by our Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples, maintains its validity in our time as an order of God. According to the Book of Acts, it is the act of obedience. Evangelism is an inseparable part of the church. The work of the church is evangelizing and the fruit of evangelism is church planting. The growth of a church depends entirely upon Evangelism. Evangelism is the lifeline of a church. In churches, where evangelism occupies the first place among all activities, we not only see the numerical growth, but more than that, we can see a definite spiritual growth.

Nobody can be a witness for Jesus Christ if he has not heard about Him and no one can hear about Him unless somebody preaches and no one can preach Him unless he is assigned the task. We can be a witness for Jesus Christ only when we abide in Him and His word abides in us, keep His Commandments, and willing to bear persecution though we are not of this world.

We acknowledge the vision of our Director-Treasurer the Rev. Harold Jones in enabling us to sow the true Gospel seed and are grateful to him for his permanent support for the project since the foundation of the church in India.

Like past years, the achievements in the field this year have been enormous and encouraging. Our 44 Ministers and Deacons covered an area of about 400 miles in India and 162 miles in Nepal from June 3-5, with seven instant baptisms, seeing significant changes in the mind and heart and of the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour amongst those baptized. Gospel portions, New Testaments and various Christian literature bought from the Bible Society of India, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, were handed out to the prospective seekers and enquirers with whom the follow up program will continue during the year.

The challenge is now greater than ever before being an indigenous endeavour. This can be done either by going out to the fields as preachers or by financially supporting those who are already involved in this hazardous task with risk and responsibility.



*Ministers and Deacons receiving materials for the Evangelism campaign in India*



*(Pictured left) Preparing for Evangelism campaign in Nepal.*



# Youth Camp in the Philippines

by Rosana R. Briones

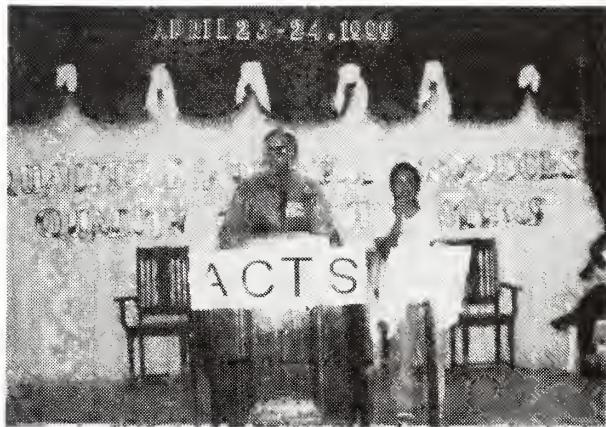
The Mission Department of the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines conducted a Youth Summer Camp and Sport-Fest last April 25-30, 1999, at Palawan Bible College, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. The theme of the camp was "Quality Youth Leaders Produce Quality Youth Church Leaders." We had almost three hundred registered young

All of the campers came from different places in North, South, and Central District of Palawan.

We were very blessed by the following missionaries who came from North Carolina to lecture during the Youth Camp: the Rev. Harold



*These are the campers who attended the lectures.*



*The Rev. Chris Singleton speaks about prayer using A.C.T.S. (Acknowledge, Confess, Thanksgiving and Supplication). Sister Marivic Adia is his interpreter.*

people and sixty children who attended the Vacation Bible School. Ma'am Sandra Jones and Gwen Kennedy taught new songs assisted by Sister Marvie Flores, and Sister Maricris Bañes, Sister Rutchel Dalabajan, Marivic Adia and some young people in the main church. They made a beautiful Salvation bracelet, necklace and other things.

Jones, the Rev. Chris Singleton, Kelly Carlton, and Clifton Greenup. Their lectures were encouraging to the youth; many of them committed themselves to serve the Lord.

When they finished their lectures, they went to Barangay Mangingisda, together with some members of the Board of Trustees, to work on the church where the Rev. Pio dela Rosa is the

pastor. They gave their support physically to help the carpenters in the church. Thanks to all the missionaries; they were a big help in the work there.

During the Sport-Fest Brother Clifton joined a basketball team. He had plenty of fans. Every time

he would attempt to shoot, the campers would shout and cheer for him. He was the tallest player on the team. Everyone did their best to make this camp a great success.

My beloved brethren, I want to ask your prayers for all of our co-workers, especially the young people, that they will have a good relationship with one another and most especially with the Lord.



*The players enjoying their basketball game.*

## CHURCH FINANCE

### Notice to all Churches Affected by Hurricane Floyd and Related Flooding

In response to the devastation visited on our community by Hurricane Floyd, Church Finance Association is now offering a Disaster Relief Loan. All costs and fees associated with this loan are being paid by CFA and the current interest rate is 4.00%. All applications will be fast tracked and funds will be available upon approval. For additional information or application please contact: **Donald Fader 252-523-5800.**

# November



Pray  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Think  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

SUN	MON	TUE	
31	1	2	3
7	8	9 Cape Fear Conference Foreign Missions Board	10
14	15 Eastern Conference Layman's League, New Haven FWB Church Askin, NC 7:00 PM Meal and 7:45 PM Business	16 FWB Press Board Meeting	17
21	22	23	24
28	29	30	1



erns \_\_\_\_\_

member \_\_\_\_\_

	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> State Conference Layman's League, Friendship FWB Church Farmville, NC 7:00 PM Meal and 7:45 PM Business	<b>6</b>
	<b>11</b> Central Conference  Veteran's Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>18</b> Children's Home Board	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Friends of Children's Day
	<b>25</b> FWB Press Closed FWB Bookstores Closed FWB Headquarters Closed 	<b>26</b> FWB Headquarters Closed	<b>27</b>
	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

## Operation Christmas Cheer

The Christmas season will soon be upon us and all over the world people will be celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. This is a special time of year. We all look forward to sharing time with family and friends. Part of our joy comes from giving and remembering others with gifts, cards and the greetings of the season.

It always warms our heart to receive a card or greeting from friends that we have known through the years but no longer see on a regular basis. As time passes, our lives change and we move from one place to another, but it is always good to keep in touch with people we have known through the years to let them know that we have not forgotten them or the memories we share.

### *Remember Them!*

Over time, the ministers who have faithfully served the congregations of our Convention have changed pastorates and they are no longer an active part of our church family. While many of these men are still working hard in their capacities as pastors, there are some who, because of advancing years or disability, are unable to attend meetings, conferences, and conventions. These are the men who preached the revivals, baptized our children and performed the marriage ceremonies of our parents. Over the years, we may have lost touch and there is a danger that we may forget them and the important work they have done.

Several years ago the Minister's Program sought to acknowledge these men who have given so much to our people and churches. Operation Christmas Cheer was instituted and the original plan was to honor our ministers, age 75 and over, at this special time of year by sending them Christmas greetings

and gifts of \$100. Last year we took a bold step to lower the age threshold to age 65. This means that each minister age 65 and over will receive a gift from you, their church family, in the amount of \$100.00. This program reaches over 100 ministers at a cost of over \$10,000.00. This gift, while sent to them by the Minister's Program, is given on behalf of all the churches in our Convention who by their generosity have supported the program and made this possible.

### *Who Makes This Possible?*

You do! It is our churches and other organizations within the church that make this program a reality. Last year approximately 45% of our churches provided no gift support to this program. It may be that you do not think programs like Operation Christmas Cheer and the other work of the Minister's Program are important. However, judging from the response of the ministers who receive these greetings, it is very important to them. Are you doing your part? Each year we receive

numerous cards thanking you the churches for making this program possible. One minister writes to thank you by saying "It means so much to be remembered by my denomination," and another says, "This gift will really come in handy and I sure can use it, thank you."

### *What Can You Do?*

Each church, Sunday school class, auxiliary, layman's league, and youth group can contribute \$100 to help support this program. We hope you will include the Minister's Program in your budget. Some churches are able to do more and we would like to encourage them to do this at this special time of year. Each year the Minister's Program steps out in faith to make Christmas Cheer a reality because without your support we could not afford the cost. Thank you in advance for all that you do and may all the blessings of this season be yours.

To participate please send your gift to:

The Minister's Program  
PO Box 39  
Ayden, NC 28513

## *Pastor's Financial Conference 2000*

### *February 5, 2000*

The minister is called upon to wear many hats, preacher, counselor, mediator, and friend are just a few. In addition to these tasks and others he is often called upon to be an administrator or manager. Churches expect pastors to be knowledgeable about financial matters and be able to guide the church in making the right choices and decisions.

To be effective in the church, however, a minister must first be able to manage his own resources. The way we handle our finances is one of the clearest indicators of whether we are being obedient to God. Everyone realizes that good training is essential for any task and this is especially true in administration. To help give a better understanding of the biblical principles

*cont....*



*Pastor's Financial  
Conference 2000, cont....*

that apply to finances, The Minister's Program is working along with Larry Burkett's organization, Christian Financial Concepts, Inc., to host The Pastors' Financial Conference 2000 on the campus of Mount Olive College, Saturday, February 5, 2000.

This all-day conference will deal with the specifics of the pastor's personal finances, church administration, and how to start a financial ministry in the local church. The conference will be open to the ministers and their wives of this convention. The Minister's Program will subsidize the cost of this conference for all convention ministers. Other ministers who are interested in attending can do so at the regular rate.

We are fortunate to have engaged the services of Jack W. Anderson, who has been associated with Christian Financial Concepts since 1980. He is an advocate of biblical principles for handling God's resources. A retired military officer, he was ordained into the gospel ministry in 1993. He presents seminars all over the United States and in other parts of the world.

He consults with individuals and businesses and since 1987 has been involved with the training of CFC's instructors. In 1993, Jack taped a series of 30 programs entitled, *How to Manage Your Money* for Moody Broadcasting. In addition, he has also consulted and co-taught on several projects for the ministry of CFC in adapting materials for use in college curriculums. These schools include Columbia Bible College and New Orleans Theological Seminary.

Jack has a bachelor's degree from Park College in Missouri in economics and business administration and a master's degree from the University of Southern California in systems management.

We are indeed fortunate to be able to bring this level of conference training to eastern North Carolina and we hope that each of our churches will make it possible for their minister to attend.

The books and handouts will be worth the cost of attending. Additional information will be mailed to all ministers and churches. Make plans to attend now!



You are cordially invited to join us at our

# Christmas Open House

at the

Ayden, Kinston, Wilson, and New Bern

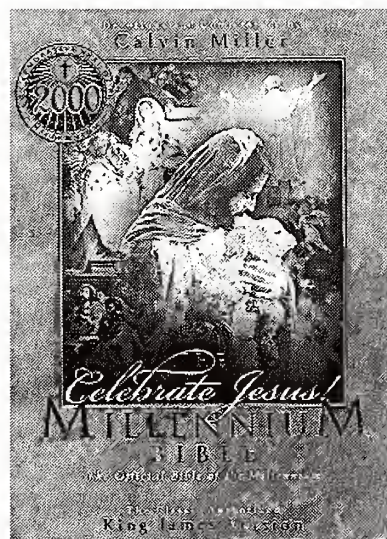
**Bible & Bookstore**

**Saturday, December 4, 1999**

9:00 AM — 5:00 PM

Enjoy a warm atmosphere with

light refreshments and **20% off\*** purchases.



**ENTER TO WIN AT EACH LOCATION**  
**The Celebrate Jesus Millennium Bible — KJV**  
**Gold stamped with year 2000.**

\*Does not include robes, hymnals, SS. curriculum, church supplies or double discounts. Not valid on special orders or previously purchased items.





## Mount Olive College Honors Bridge Builders

Approximately 450 people attended the 1999 Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, October 2, at Mount Olive College. The dinner is the college's way of thanking contributors from Free Will Baptist churches throughout eastern North Carolina. This year's event was held in honor of 1,861 individuals and church organizations that contributed \$100 or more during 1998. The church dinner gift support program totaled \$401,930 last year.

"The Free Will Baptist Bridge Builders are an extremely important part of Mount Olive College. Bridge Builders have the power to build futures for students who attend our institution. We salute and thank these individuals," commented Dr. J. William Byrd, President of the College.

Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, coordinated the dinner and served as mistress of ceremonies. "This is one of our best events of the year because it gives us a chance to show our appreciation to those special



*The MOC Concert Choir entertained the bridge builders with 35 minutes of praise and worship songs.*

people who help make Mount Olive College successful." "Every gift is an investment in the lives of the students we serve," Mrs. Ackiss remarked.

Garrett Southerland, a traditional student, and the Rev. Allen W. Stanley, a nontraditional student in the church ministries program, shared some of their college experiences with the audience and thanked them for supporting the ministry of Christian higher education.

As a token of appreciation to those individuals who contributed \$100 or more to the College, each Bridge Builder was given a book entitled *Bible Questions for All Ages*, written by the Rev. Robert Langley. Langley is

pastor of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church in Pamlico County. Dr. Pepper Worthington, Editor of the MOC Press, announced that Langley's book is the first in a new series. "The Free Will Baptist Outreach Series has been established as a vehicle for Free Will Baptists to express their individual experiences through poetry, essays, fiction, and nonfiction," Worthington noted.

Under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, Professor of Music, the Mount Olive College Concert



*Pictured are Carl and Jean Averette, long-time bridge builders from the First FWB Church in Greenville, Pitt County, with Jean Ackiss, director of Church Support at MOC.*



*The following people made special presentations at the Mount Olive College Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner: (left to right) the Rev. David Charles Hansley, general administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists; the Rev. Robert Langley, pastor of Bethel FWB Church in Pamlico County; Dr. Pepper Worthington, editor of the MOC Press; Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music at MOC; Garrett Southerland, senior at MOC and member of Westside FWB Church in Lenior County; Jean F. Ackiss, director of church support; Dr. J. William Byrd, president of MOC; and the Rev. Allen W. Stanley, student at MOC and pastor of Stancil's Chapel FWB Church in Johnston County.*

Choir and Free Spirit performed a variety of Christian musical selections. The vocalists received a standing ovation.

Inspirational music was provided by Gary F. Barefoot, a member of Robert's Grove Free Will Baptist Church and Director Emeritus of Library Services at Mount Olive College.

Student ambassadors under the direction of Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs, helped serve the donors. Members of the staff and faculty served as table hosts and hostesses.



## Library Mainstay Retires after 34 Years

After 34 years as Director of Library Services, Gary Fenton Barefoot is retiring from Mount Olive College. The college recently acknowledged Gary's dedication and loyalty at the banquet held in his honor at Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. Over 250 family members, former classmates, friends, and fellow employees filled the banquet hall to celebrate Gary's accomplishments.

Among those who spoke at the event were Pam Wood, Assistant Librarian; Lillian Langley, President of Langley-Carlton Insurance Company; the Rev. David Charles Hansley, General Administrator of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists; Edward Morris, a former MOC student; Willis Brown, Associate Professor of Biology; W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus; and J. William Byrd, President. In their tributes, Gary was recognized for his organizational skills, sense of humor, style and commitment. He was also praised for his musical talents, church involvement, volunteer effort, and professional accomplishments.

Gary is an active member of

Robert's Grove Free Will Baptist Church, where he has served as organist, deacon, and Sunday school teacher. His love for Christ is best evidenced by his efforts to preserve Free Will Baptist history through serving on the denomination's Historical Commission and by leading the development of the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection. When Gary first joined Mount Olive College, the collection amounted to one file cabinet full of material. With his guidance and diligence, the collection now consists of an entire room filled with over 10,000 catalogued items dedicated to the preservation of the Free Will Baptist heritage. Gary plans to continue working with the collection even after his retirement.

As a citizen of Mount Olive, Gary has worked to make his community a better place. An active Jaycee for twelve years, he became a life member of the organization in 1975. He is a charter member and past president of the Mount Olive Exchange Club, as well as board member of the Steele Memorial Library. During Christmas,

Gary can be seen ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, and on Independence Day he is always ready and willing to assist with the annual community celebration.

Professionally, when Gary joined Mount Olive College in 1966, the library was housed in two classrooms on the old downtown campus. In the fall of 1968, the library staff moved into Moyer Library. With Gary's direction, the library

has grown from 1,000 books on card catalogue to over 65,000 volumes and 500 serials all on electronic retrieval. The library also has access to over 5,000 periodicals through NCLive.

Gary's breadth of liberal arts knowledge uniquely qualified him to build a collection in support of all the College's programs of study. However, administration is not Gary's first love, it is helping students and teaching them to use research tools. Although he has never had any children of his own, Gary has had many sons and daughters at Mount Olive College. He may not be able to remember the name of every student that has graced the halls of Moyer Library, but what he can remember is a sense of pride he feels as he recalls the countless number of students he has assisted over the years. "They have kept me young," Gary remarked about the students, "They have made it all worth while."

After retiring, Gary plans to travel and spend more time volunteering. "I've always been fascinated by the art and culture of the orient," he said. "I'll miss Mount Olive College, these are some of the finest people I've ever known. I feel like I've spent most of my life at Mount Olive College, either as a student or an employee," he said.

At the close of the retirement banquet, Dr. J. William Byrd announced that the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees approved for Gary to be named Director Emeritus of Library Services. Gary was then presented with an oak and cherry Windsor chair laser engraved with the college seal and his dates of employment.

"Gary has uncommonly good judgement. He has always exercised outstanding leadership for the whole institution, not just the library. We may find a successor for the Director of Library Services, but never a replacement," Dr. Byrd commented.



The following people made special presentations at the retirement banquet in honor of Gary Barefoot: Front row (L to R) the Rev. David Charles Hansley, Gary Barefoot, Lillian Langley, and Pamela Wood. Back row (L to R): Willis Brown, Edward Morris, Dr. Burkette Raper, Dr. J. William Byrd, and Dr. Michael Pelt.





Mount Olive College held its annual "See You at the Pole" in Rodgers Chapel at 7:00 AM on September 15. Students and those attending the Free Will Baptist Convention gathered around the Christian and American flags to pray for the College, the community, the denomination and our nation.

## Getting a Jump on College for the Year 2000

Joy Daughtry, a senior at North Lenoir High School, recently visited Mount Olive College to submit her fall 2000 Admission Application. Coming from a family of MOC alumni, it was important to Joy to attend her parents' alma mater. Joy's mother, Wanda, attended MOC in 1979. Her father, the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, pastor of Westside Free Will Baptist Church, attended in 1978. The couple met and fell in love at Mount Olive College. Joy, the oldest of the Daughtry's three children, wanted to keep the tradition alive by attending Mount Olive College. Her brother, Daniel, a junior this year and her sister, Amy, a freshman also plan to attend MOC.

Surrounded by her family, Joy completes her fall 2000 Mount Olive College Admission Application. Pictured are Amy, Joy, Daniel, Wanda, and Jeff Daughtry.



## MOC Admissions Team Hits the Road

The Mount Olive College Admissions Team is packed and ready to hit the road and start spreading the good news about MOC to high school juniors and seniors. They will be traveling throughout North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, Florida, and Maryland recruiting at area high school "College Days." Please be on the lookout for Tim Woodard, Vicky Stroud, Matt Green, and the Admissions Team's newest member, Virginia "Ginny" Odneal, as they visit your high school alma mater. If you are in the area stop by and say hello.

As an alum or undergraduate alum, you could be a part of the MOC Recruiting Team. Do MOC a favor and send in the names of as many high school seniors you can think of who would like to attend MOC. You can do this by completing the information below and faxing it to 919-658-7180 or e-mailing it to Tim Woodard at [twoodard@exchange.moc.edu](mailto:twoodard@exchange.moc.edu). You could also give the form to a student to attach to his or her admission application. In so doing, MOC will waive the student's \$20 application fee. The Admissions Team will be grateful for your efforts and the students will appreciate your support and confidence in them. Thank you in advance for your loyalty to MOC.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Pictured is the MOC Admissions Team, Tim Woodard, Ginny Odneal and Vicky Stroud. Not pictured, Matt Green.



## Mount Olive College's Concert Choir to Perform "Amahl and the Night Vistors"

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir has already begun rehearsals for their fall performance of Gian-Carlo Menotti's well-known Christmas opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors."

The opera will feature Nikki McLawhorn of Mount Olive in the title role and Judy Gourley of Goldsboro as the mother. Other soloists include Bret Smithey, a member of the National Opera Company; Dr. Charles Smith, the District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church from Rocky Mount; and Jonathan Puckett, a student at Mount Olive College from Virginia Beach, Virginia. The performance will also feature the 35-voice Mount Olive College Concert Choir and a full orchestra. Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music, is directing the work.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors" was written in the early 1950s as the first "opera for television." It is the story of a poor crippled boy and the events that transpire when he and his mother are visited by the Three Wise Men as they journey to Bethlehem.

This outstanding display of musical talent will be performed at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, November 30, in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center on the Mount Olive College campus. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free, but a free-will offering will be taken.



## Parker Shares Her Love For Mount Olive College

As the salutatorian at North Lenoir High School, Jennifer Parker could have attended any college of her choice... and her choice was Mount Olive College. Now, a senior at the College, Jennifer reflects on her decision. "I chose Mount Olive because I was afraid I would get lost in the crowd at a larger university," she commented.

A member of Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston, Jennifer was familiar with the College from having attended various FWB Conventions and Dinners.

However, it wasn't until after a Freshman Visitation Day that she made her decision.

"I met so many people that day that I felt I already knew everyone on campus. It made me feel at ease, like I was at home," she said.

It may have been this feeling of comfort that helped Jennifer, normally shy by nature, decide to run for freshman class president under the persuasion of Student Development Director, Julie Beck and fellow Free Will Baptist student, Reagan Singleton. After being elected president of her class, doors began to open for Jennifer. She became more and more involved in organizations such as Phi Beta Lambda, Fellowship of Christian Students, Psi Chi, and the Campus Activity Board (CAB). She is now the senior executive president of CAB.

"The students, professors, and administrators at Mount Olive College have had such an impact on my life," Jennifer stated. "I never knew our denomination had something like this until I came and experienced it for myself. Now I see how active the Free Will Baptists are in the college. They've given to me, so now I want to give back to them."

Part of her giving back could include the influence she has had on her younger brother, Kevin, who is now a senior in high school. Although he has not decided if he will go straight to Mount Olive College or into the military first, Kevin has decided that Mount Olive College is the place for him. Jennifer encouraged Kevin to attend a Freshman Visitation Day and then introduced him to Criminal Justice Professor, Reed Adams.

"Kevin told me he was interested in criminal justice so I took him over to meet Professor Adams. Kevin left impressed and very excited."

In the spring of 2000, after graduating from Mount Olive College with a degree in human resource development and a minor in psychology, Jennifer plans to go to pharmacy school at Campbell University. She then wants to take the state board examination and work at a community pharmacy. She would also like to pursue a Ph.D. in psychology.

Jennifer is the daughter of Mike and Wilma Parker.



Jennifer Parker, a senior at Mount Olive College and president of the Student Government Association.

# 1999 FALL EVENTS

## **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1 — CAROLINA BRASS ENSEMBLE**

Carolina Brass Ensemble will perform a variety of music ranging from Jazz to Classical at 7:30 PM in Rodgers Chapel. The public is invited. Admission is free.

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2 — Y2K LECTURE**

Dr. James M. Efird, an ordained Presbyterian minister and professor of Biblical Interpretation, teaches seminary students how to use the Bible in their ministries. In his lecture, he will discuss Bible Scriptures and explain his interpretations of their meanings. The event will be held in Rodgers Chapel at 5:30 PM.

## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 — CAMPUS VISITATION DAY**

Prospective students and their parents are invited to attend information sessions on admission and financial aid procedures, academic planning, and campus life. Entertainment will be provided by college musical groups. Tours will be given by Mount Olive College students. Have lunch with faculty and students in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. For more information contact Tim. Woodard, Director of Admissions at 1-800-653-0854. Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM.

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 — THE SIXTH ANNUAL JAMES A. EVANS LECTURE**

The program will feature Dr. Bill Bennett, campus chaplain and professor of preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. The three-session lecture discussion of New Testament pattern for evangelism, the pastor's role in evangelism, and the church's mission in evangelism. Registration is \$10.00 per person and includes a buffet luncheon and an awards presentation. For additional information, contact Dr. K. David Hines (919) 658-2502. The lecture will be held in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center and will begin at 9:00 AM.

## **FRIDAY - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19-21 — ALUMNI HOMECOMING, *KEEPING THE MEMORIES ALIVE***

Alumni, friends, and family are invited to attend Homecoming 1999. This year's schedule includes:

Friday at 11:30 AM — Alumni Golf Tournament

Friday at 6:00 PM — 34th Annual Pickle Classic Basketball Tournament

Saturday at 5:00 PM — Alumni Awards Banquet

Sunday 10:00 AM — Sunday Morning Worship at Rodgers Chapel

For more information, contact Dianne Riley at (919) 658-2502.

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 — FOUNDERS DAY SERVICE**

Mount Olive College will celebrate its founding and its commitment to Christian higher education. The service will be held in Rodgers Chapel at 11:00 AM.

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 — MOC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

The Christmas concert, entitled "Amahl and the Night Visitors," is the story of a poor crippled boy and the events that transpire when he and his mother are visited by the Three Wise Men as they journey to Bethlehem. The performance will feature Nikki McLawhorn of Mount Olive and Judy Gourley of Goldsboro. The performance will begin at 8:00 PM and will be in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. Admission is free but a free-will offering will be taken.

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 — NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY "CHRISTMAS POP"**

Sing along to favorite carols and listen to popular holiday music. There will also be a few surprises and some light-hearted touches, from Santa hats to bass twirls. Bring the whole family to the celebration. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$13 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door. The concert will be at 3:00 PM in College Hall. Season tickets will be available for purchase at the door.

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 — CHRISTMAS BUFFET**

The Christmas Buffet features a delicious buffet dinner in a holiday atmosphere with holiday music provided by the Mount Olive College Ensemble. The dinner will begin at 7:00 PM. Reservations must be made in advance. To get your tickets, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement and Planning at (919) 658-2502.

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 — GRADUATION DAY**

The Commencement Worship Service will be in Rodgers Chapel at 10:30 AM and the graduation ceremony will be at 2:00 PM in College Hall.



## We Still Need Your Help

During my work at Cragmont I have learned a few things about people and how they give their money. (1) People love to give to special projects. That is the reason we ministry directors have so many of them. (2) If a ministry has a special project going, the giving will usually fall off before the project is paid for. The ministry director will of course have to ask and re-ask until the project is completed.

Currently at Cragmont we are still striving to pay for a project that we started in 1996, the renovation of the main building. Let's review the finance of the project. To do the work on the north end we borrowed \$100,000.00 and paid it down to \$30,000.00 before starting on the south end of the main building. The second phase involved the south end, lobby, stairs, offices, and air-conditioning and heat in the chapel. For this we borrowed \$168,000.00. The \$33,000.00 left over from phase one added to the second phase put us in debt over \$200,000.00. As of this writing we have paid that debt down to \$150,000.00.

I wonder if we are at the point where people are tired of hearing about renovation. Understand that you are no more tired of the "R" word than I am. However, the project is not complete until we pay out the last penny that it cost to complete the actual work.

I would like to offer you a job. It is not a paying job. On the contrary, it will cost you money. I urge you to consider taking on the task of helping us clear the debt we incurred renovating the main building. We would appreciate any gift. Just earmark your check "renovation."

*Since 1945, Cragmont Assembly has been "The People Place." The 116 acres of property rest on the slopes of Mount Allen just north of Black Mountain, North Carolina. The initial purchase price of \$10,000 was raised and paid within three months, shortly after the property was deemed suitable for conferences, retreats and youth encampments. Cragmont has been described as our "Summer Youth Camp." Yet Cragmont is that and so much more. We have seven summer youth conferences, three women's auxiliary conferences (two week-long conferences and one weekend conference) and the minister's conference. There are spring and fall church retreats, skiing in the winter, rafting and touring groups, and our popular Club Retreats. There is something for everyone, even those just needing a place to stay overnight. We strive to be an extension of the ministry already going on in our churches.*

"Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord... He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths" (Isaiah 2:3 NIV).

## The Cragmont Club

The Club was established to help us have a steady cash flow. Each year the Club is responsible for approximately \$30,000. Much of these funds will arrive on a monthly time schedule. While the Club will give you and your immediate family members certain benefits we hope that these benefits are not the reason for joining. Hopefully, the greatest benefit you receive is knowing that you are helping to support a ministry of the denomination.

### The Plan

For \$10 per month you and your immediate family may spend a weekend or the equivalent of a weekend at Cragmont at no cost. To join the Club send in your first \$10 earmarked for the Cragmont Club.

### Club Rules

- You must be a member for one month before benefits can be used.
- Benefits may not be used during regularly scheduled conferences.
- "Those persons living under your roof," is our definition of immediate family
- Benefits may not be carried over to another year.
- Meals will not be prepared except by prior arrangement and only for a group of 15 or more.
- You may use benefits if you are traveling in the area while on vacation.
- You may use benefits at Cragmont during a church retreat.



# Improvements to the Facility in 1999

- New kitchen walls
- New ceiling fans for dining room
- New counters and cabinets/dining
- New outside storage for kitchen
- New gutters/dining and main building
- New landscaping at campfire area
- New golf cart

# Attendance Record for 1999

- Morning Star – 123
- Minister's Conference – 84
- June Women's Conference – 33
- Christian Youth Conference – 136
- Christian Cadet Conference 164
- YFA Conference – 104
- AFC Conference – 139
- General Youth I – 200
- General Youth II – 191
- Young People's Bible – 79
- August Women's Conference – 99

# Board Members

- Gary Bailey, *Central Conference*
- Grace Barbour, *Cape Fear Conference*
- Mike Barnhill, *Eastern Conference*
- Donald Coates, *Western Conference*
- Carol Davis, *Cape Fear Conference*
- Harry Grubbs, *Central Conference*
- Nancy Hardee, *Pee Dee Conference*
- Sharlene Howell, *Cape Fear Conference*
- Lloyd Jones, *Albemarle Conference*
- Velma Morris, *Eastern Conference*
- Jimmy Stocks, *Central Conference*
- Bryant Hines, *Eastern Conference*



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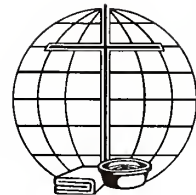
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PS Form 3526, September 1995 (See instructions on Reverse)

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).		
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2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.		
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.		
4. If the publication had second-class authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.		
5. In item 18, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.		
6. Item 17 must be signed.		
Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of second-class authorization.		

PS Form 3526, September 1995 (Reverse)





### *Events and Happenings from Deep Run Church*

On Sunday, July 18, 1999, Deep Run Original Free Will Baptist Church sponsored the annual Sunday School Teachers and Officers Recognition Celebration. Through this event recognition is given for leadership in the Storytime Program, Children's Church Program, Bible School, 52 Club attendance, Teacher of the Year, and teachers and officers of the Sunday School Program.

Two very special leaders in the Sunday school were recognized during this event: Mr. Elwood Hill, Sunday school superintendent, and Mr. William Ray Hawkins, assistant Sunday school superintendent. Elwood Hill has provided over 30 years of dedicated service as Sunday school superintendent and Bill Hawkins was recognized for 15+ years of work in the Sunday school.

Elwood was born September 22, 1937 to German and Selma Hill in Lenior County. He graduated from Deep Run High School in 1955 and the University of North Carolina in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. In 1958 he married Nettie Jean Tyndall and they have a daughter JoEllen and a son Jeffrey Elwood. As a youth Elwood was a Boy Scout and has continued to work in this program providing leadership for the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts for over 32 years. At the present time Elwood is Cubmaster of Pack 447 at Deep Run Church.

Mr. Hill is a loyal and devoted church worker at Deep Run Church. His leadership includes, Sunday school teacher, Board of Deacons, Board of Finance, Board of Christian Education, and for many years provided expertise as treasurer. He was the Chairman of the Building Committee for the construction of the

new Sunday school building.

In addition to family and church activities, Elwood willingly shares his knowledge and insight within his community. He is presently President of Toastmasters International in Kinston which he enjoys very much. He is also President of the Deep Run Alumni. He is an outstanding artist and enjoys painting our buildings, making signs, and scenery for church activities as well.

The Hill's have three grandchildren: Trey Sloan, age 16; Gavin, age 4; and Carley Hill, age 2. He has worked several years as manager of S.H. Kress and Co. and for Senator Harold Hardison. At the present time he is a senior auditor for Harleysville Insurance Company.

During our awards banquet his grandson Trey Sloan spoke on behalf of his grandfather. He stated that granddaddy has always stressed attendance for the Sunday school program. The Sunday school did achieve his "100" total on a Sunday prior to Elwood's retirement — his final goal was met with 102 members in attendance. "My grandfather has always been active in this church and has been a member for 49 years," Trey proudly stated.

The following information was shared by Barry Hawkins, the son of Bill Hawkins, during the program. Bill was born to Margaret and Vernon Hawkins and grew up in Cove City, NC. After graduating from Jones Sr. High School, Bill received a degree from North Carolina State University, Lenior Community College, and Atlantic Christian College in the area of accounting and worked with Simon Sitterson after graduation. While on a bank audit, he met his "wife to be" Regina Smith and they have two

children, Lindsey and Barry.

Bill worked at Carolina Dairies in accounting until 1991 when he began "living his dream" — owning and operating his own farming operation. Bill enjoys being with the family, church, working on the farm, good food, and playing the organ for the church. He has tremendous energy and enjoys working. He is constantly busy with his turkeys, pigs, cows, church treasurer work, playing the organ, singing in the choir, setting the heat and air for the church buildings. At this time he is retiring as the Sunday school assistant superintendent job but will continue to be active in Sunday school work.

Thank you Elwood and Bill for all of your hard work and dedication to the church and for being the positive role models that you are for your family, church family and community.

Perfect attendance awards plaques and pins were presented to Hazel and J.W. Smith. Lois Everington and Hazel Smith were presented with plaques to honor them as Teachers of the Year. Both of these ladies give tremendous time and effort in leading the Cornerstone Sunday school class, adult Bible school class, and the Thursday morning Bible study program. Additional awards were presented to winners of the quarterly bulletin board judging contests.

The Sunday school program anticipates an outstanding year through the leadership of Chuck Smith, Sunday school superintendent and Greg Smith, assistant superintendent. Chuck follows a third family generation as superintendent. His grandfather, Aubrey Smith and his father Charles Aubrey "Bud" Smith were previous leaders in the Sunday school program.



## People & Events

### *Ormondsville Church Assists Flood Victims*

The Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church, Ayden, NC, found itself in a unique position to help during the recent flood caused by Hurricane Floyd. Two severely flooded areas of Greene County, Scuffleton and the area on the southeastern banks of the Contentnea Creek, were cut off from the designated disaster shelters

because of flooded bridges and roads. In a joint effort beginning on Friday, September 17, the Methodist Church in Maury and the Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church provided shelter, clothing, and food for area residents displaced by the flood waters and with no access to shelters. Church members solicited donations from Burger King

for breakfast items to supplement the biscuits, sausage, bread, etc., scavenged from area stores during those hectic days. Lunch and supper were prepared by people in the community to feed the flood victims until the Red Cross was able to get to our area. Church members cooked, served meals, sorted, and dispersed clothing

and household items during the following weeks. After the shelter was moved to Snow Hill, the Ormondsville Church continued to provide breakfast until September 23 to flood victims, DOT workers from Madison County, and the National Guard.

It has been a time filled with so many conflicting emotions, many have experienced despair and sadness over losses sustained by our fellow church members and their families; yet, there has also been joy and thanksgiving for the blessings we all have received. Our immediate church family has grown closer together and a new relationship with people in our community has begun to evolve. We were given the opportunity to serve and witness for our Lord in a most challenging way and have grown in our relationship with Him because of this experience in our lives.



### *Flood Waters Do Not Prevent Worship Services*

As the Rev. Frank Flowers, pastor of Little Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, near Ayden, NC, watched the flood waters rise on the church grounds and then into the Church, he knew God's people would continue to worship, that God's Word would continue among His people. With the cooperation of the membership of Ormondsville Free Will Baptist Church, alternate hours for worship were worked out between the two congregations. The Little Creek congregation recently began its Sunday School and worship services each Sunday afternoon, beginning at 1:00 PM, with Sunday school and worship service beginning at 2:00. Meanwhile, the entire community continues to pray for relief from the pain suffered by the flood victims, an experience that will never be forgotten.

### *Michael Warning Speaker at Prayer Breakfast*

Leonard T. Jernigan, Jr. (left), attorney at law in the Raleigh Jernigan Law Firm, welcomes the Rev. Michael G. Warning (right) of Kinston to the St. Michael's Men's Breakfast group in Raleigh. As part of the Mount Olive College Press Outreach emphasis, the Rev. Warning, director of graphic arts for the MOC Press, was the guest speaker at the St. Michael's Men's Breakfast group. His topic, "Traits of the Mythic Hero," related Lord Raglan's concept of myth to literary stories. The Rev. Warning's interest in folklore, myth, and creative drawings is reflected in his own literary and artistic drawings. His book on the architect, Julie Morgan, is forthcoming as a MOC Press publication. OFWB churches wishing to have the Rev. Warning as a speaker may make a request by writing him at 1600 Cambridge Drive, Kinston, NC 28504.





## "Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving"

submitted by Rita O. Jones

Many of us were thankful for the rains from Hurricane Dennis that helped end the record drought in September, but it all became too much when followed by Hurricane Floyd and its devastating flooding. At Powhatan, we were thankful to be spared from the damage that crippled much of the eastern part of the state, but our prayers were with those who did lose their homes, business, and crops. We collected items and funds and sent them to our neighbors. Many victims were thankful even amid the destruction to still have their lives and be safe with their families.

Homecoming services and the fellowship meal were held on September 19 with Roger Hill bringing the message, but the memorial service and afternoon singing were postponed. Revival was held September 20-24 with the Rev. Jerry English of Antioch. We enjoyed his singing as well as his preaching!

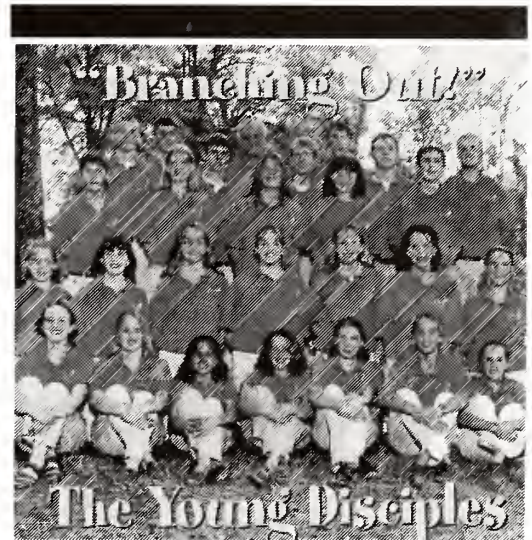
On September 26, four members who had gone on to be with the Lord were honored in a memorial service sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary. Bunk Cole presented a tribute to friend Foye Williams Thornton; Lyndsay Carroll memorialized her step-grandmother, Velma Benson McKenzie; Barbara Barbour talked about her mother-in-law, Pennie Barbour, and what an ideal mother she had been. The two daughters of Annie Mae Allen, Lisa and Phyllis, were hardly able to speak about their mother's life and death. She was such a dear soul who devoted so much to her family and to the service of the Lord. They said they had learned to count on their mother and her best friend, Ollie Brady, always going together to activities, including Cape Fear District Youth Rallies.

Woman's Auxiliary Vice-president Diana Bass concluded the service by saying Powhatan had lost four great women but our loss was heaven's gain.

On October 2, a group from Powhatan attended the Cape Fear District Woman's Auxiliary conference at St. Mary's Grove. Ginger Hill, Diana Bass, Wanda Benson, Rita Jones, and Ollie Brady enjoyed the singing, fellowship and message. Later that evening, a group of 15 attended the Youth Rally at Shady Grove, enjoying the skit performed by their youth. It was a busy day but a day of blessings.

Congratulations to J.C. and Joyce Blinson on 67 years of marriage and to Thedford and Pearl Wood for 64 years celebrated in October.

**In Memoriam:** Mavis Barbour of Powhatan lost her fight with cancer and won her crown in glory on September 23. Please remember her husband Buddy and her daughters as well as the rest of her family during this time.



You are invited to enjoy  
**"Branching Out"**

the first recording by

**The Young Disciples,**

a contemporary Christian music group  
 from the Pine Level FWB Church.

CD's — \$15.00

Tapes — \$13.00

This group has blessed the hearts  
 of people in many of our  
 Free Will Baptist churches, as well as  
 churches in Georgia and Tennessee.

To place your prepaid order,  
 or to inquire as to how this group might  
 minister in your church, write or call:

Donald Coates

4284 Swift Creek Road

Smithfield, North Carolina 27577

(919) 934-2727

## Youth Reading Contest



Carol Harris' class at Little Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church in Scuffleton, NC has been very busy this summer. From June to August the students in her class had a contest to see who could read the most books from the church library. On September 26, 1999, they received their awards of ribbons and a package of school supplies. The winners were: Fifth place, Jeremy and Annie Taylor (6 books each); fourth place, Judy Rios (26 books); third place, Morgan Taylor (29 books); second place, Mason McLawhorn and Hosea Rios (39 books each); and first place, Geronimo Rios (40 books).

We are very proud of each of these young people.

Pictured left to right: Carol Harris, Geronimo Rios, Mason McLawhorn, Hosea Rios, Morgan Taylor, Judy Rios (back), Annie Taylor, Jeremy Taylor.



## People & Events

### Mount Olive Press Honors Participants



During the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner, held at Mount Olive College on October 2, Mount Olive Press gave special recognition and honor to Larry Newkirk (far right), Mrs. Lillian Grubbs (far left), Sheila Benson, and the Rev. C.H. Overman. Mr. Newkirk's book, *The Holy Ghost Beneath My Wings*, is the first in the new Black Writers' series that has been established to encourage black writers in our area to publish their experiences. Ms. Benson was recognized for her expertise in the typesetting process in preparing the Mount Olive Press books for publication. The Rev. C. H. Overman, editor of the Free Will Baptist Press, was recognized for his involvement in having the "final word" in the publishing of the Mount Olive Press materials.

Bethlehem  
Walk



Presented by

Arapahoe Free Will Baptist Church

Highway 306 S, Arapahoe, NC

December 9-11

Beginning at 7:00 PM

Tours every 15 minutes, last tour at 9:00 PM

Come, tour the streets of Bethlehem in this Out-Door  
re-creation of the First Christmas.

Christmas music in Sanctuary all evening

For more information call

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NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

The Rev. James Warren of 649 Poplar Street, Kinston, NC 28504 announces that he is available for pulpit supply or will be glad to fill-in in the absence of the pastor.

The Rev. Warren was ordained September 25, 1972 and is in good standing of the Eastern Conference. The Rev. Warren attended Mount Olive College where he studied Sermon Preparation and Lenior Community College in Kinston where he studied both Old and New Testament.

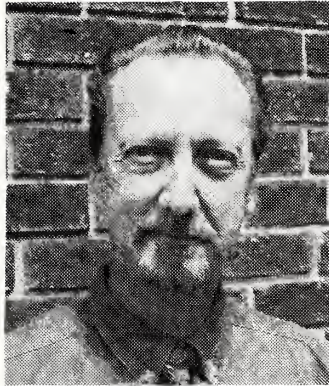
The Rev. Warren is free to come any Sunday for a trial sermon. Feel free to call Brother Warren anytime at 252-527-1648.



# CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning

Source: *Christ Washing the Feet of His Disciples* from the *Ingeburg Psalter of Denmark*. Unknown French Artist. Musee Condi, Chantilly France. Tempera on vellum 6 x 8 inches. From Richard Mühlberger. *The Bible in Art: The New Testament*. New York: Portland House, 1990, pp. 110-111.

## Introduction

The discussion of this Christian art work of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples focused upon Christ and Peter last month. Now I would like to focus upon the reaction of the disciples and our relationship to them as Original Free Will Baptists as depicted in the tempera on vellum piece from the *Ingeburg Psalter of Denmark*.

## Artistic Style

The disciples are depicted sitting upon a large platform which in classical times would have been like a large couch or bench for the banquet. People often sat at what would be to us a banqueting couch.

Peter is having his feet dried by the towel around the waist of Jesus. At our right are the other disciples. They merge in almost a single form, one painted directly over the other. We can't see the eyes of three disciples, only the tops of their head. The oldest disciple in a green robe is in the center and is balanced by the red and blue robes of the other disciples. The two disciples in their red and blue robes have been caught by the unknown French artist cleaning their own feet out of embarrassment before Jesus, because their feet are not clean. Any Original Free Will Baptist who has participated in the Washing of the Saints' Feet knows the kind of momentary embarrassment there is wiping the lint from the socks or checking hose to see if they are clean at the heal or toe or brushing dirt off the feet. We share this in common with the disciples.

This artistic style draws us into the experience. The three disciples in the front are most probably Peter, James, and John. Peter can be clearly identified and the youngest disciple with a boyish expression is on the far right, namely, John, the youngest of all the disciples. John, being the youngest, appears without a beard in this painting. James usually accompanies Peter and John.

The closeness of the disciples in the painting is quite intentional. The merging of the circular bands surrounding their head speaks of their merging of religious purpose. The artist symbolically connects the two.

## Symbolism

Notice all the faces seem to be the same. Why is this? Is it simply that the unknown artist is unable to draw more than one face? Or is it a symbolic statement that the disciples should be like Christ?

It is also not an accident that the image is cut off at the right and does not show full figures, for just as the merging and uniformity of the disciples speak of unity, the implication with the uncompleted edge is that the disciples continue and therefore include the viewer of any age and any time.

There is a sadness in the faces of the disciples which is unmistakable, for Jesus has, according to Scripture, said to them that not all of them are clean. We read in John 13:10 in the *King James Version* of the Bible: "Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all." Traditionally this has been thought to be a reference to Judas as the betrayer.

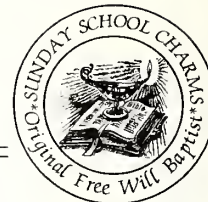
## Conclusion

It is also important to mark the uniqueness of the Original Free Will Baptist fellowship in the Washing of the Saints' Feet, for although it did not become a popular thing to do for Protestants, for Original Free Will Baptists it merges all of us with the loving service of Christ. Images of the washing of the feet are not very common. Perhaps this Christian art from the thirteenth century may be a special image for all of us in the foot-washing service.

This painting is tempera on vellum. The tempera is a water-based paint on vellum, a parchment-like writing surface. Tempera is ground pigments bound with starch and diluted with water. Often tempera on vellum was used in manuscript illustrations during the medieval period.

This Christian art came out of a psalter, which is a psalm or song book, often used for joyful singing and celebration in praise to God. Such may be our intent together as Original Free Will Baptists when we participate in the Washing of the Saints' Feet as a reminder of humility and servanthood.



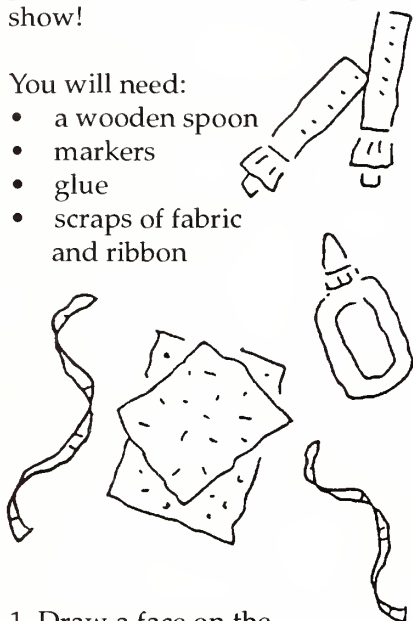


**G**od created many kinds of mothers and people to care for us.

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- glue
- scraps of fabric and ribbon



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Extra Idea:

Make a puppet of YOU from a smaller spoon! Your puppets can talk to each other!



## DIRECTOR'S BOOK REVIEW

### *The Dirt On Learning*

by Thom and Joani Schultz

This book shares a powerful message of learning as related in the Parable of the Sower. Jesus pulls our attention down to the roots of understanding about teaching and learning. The dirt is the main character in this story sharing one's faith. Oftentimes we can hear the message but not understand it; we receive the message with joy and later slide away; and we can hear but get distracted. There are those of us who can hear, understand, and be transformed into "true" followers of the Word. The authors share their understanding through careful instruction in ten chapters devoted to understanding the learner and what we can do as Christian teachers and workers to enhance the learning opportunities for those under our hearing. The chapter headings are as follows:

- A Parable for Today
- Good Content, Poor Understanding
- A Learner-Based Approach
- Moving Memory From Short-term to Long-term
- Emotion: The Glue of Learning and Retention
- Families: Where Roots Go Deep
- The Danger of Rewards, Bribes and Competition
- Lifelong Learning Through Intrinsic Motivation
- From Drudgery to Delight
- Signs of a Successful Crop

Whether you are a pastor, Sunday school teacher or worker, youth worker, children's worker, parent or a friend, there is an obligation placed upon each of us to spread the gospel to every person regardless of their station in life. We have a responsibility to learn all we can to be able to meet the demanding needs of ALL people. This book will help you understand a bit about the learning styles of people — how we all learn. It will further help learners to not just hear but truly understand, to unlock the secrets of the brain that lead to long-term memory, to nurture faith everyday, to avoid thorny barriers to growth and to use authentic learning to help learners to become eager to learn.

We encourage you to purchase this book and share with your workers. If you would like for Mrs. Dudley to come and share the information in a workshop or seminar, just let her know.

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Dr. Pepper Worthington

# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Arthur F. Holmes. *The Idea of a Christian College*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Revised Edition, 1987.

## Introduction

Arthur F. Holmes develops the idea of what a Christian college is so that readers might look anew at what it means to choose a Christian college for the development of personhood. Aware of the push for vocational skills, technological advances, and learning tools all in order to get a job and make more money, Holmes shifts the dominate emphasis of what we can *do with education* to what education might *do to us*.

## What is a Christian liberal arts education?

Try your own survey and ask parents and students, "Why go to college?" Probably 90 percent will answer, "To get a higher paying job." Ultimately, don't we find ourselves pondering what we will do with all this information rather than observing what all the information will do to us?

Holmes contends that job training is not an educational process of growth in the same way a liberal arts education is. Why? A job is a piece of life, not the whole life. A job can change. A new skill may be demanded. Therefore, the role of education must be larger, more creative, and more reflective than a narrow skill. Holmes identifies the traits of a Christian education: (a) a growth in the ability to reflect and think; (b) an ability to make value judgments; (c) an ability to sharpen one's vision, build one's sense of the whole; (d) an ability to read in order "to fertilize imagination, to conceptualize, to follow an argument, to evaluate" (31); (e) an ability to write in order to become articulate...to expound, to argue, to offer good reasons, to explore relationships, to have a sense of the whole, to see things in total context" (31).

## How might a Christian education integrate faith and learning?

Holmes stresses: "A college is not a church" (75). A church exists to build converts, but a Christian college exists to build an integration of the person which is "an intellectual activity that goes on as long as we keep learning anything at all" (46). A church exists to indoctrinate, but a Christian college exists to develop intellectual honesty, to build aesthetic values such as beauty, truth, and hope, to heighten a sense of justice rooted in a reverence for God, to create a love for learning, to build a level of faith in all creation which is sacred. Holmes writes: "The scholar's love of truth becomes an expression of love for God, just as the citizen's love of justice in society can be an expression of hunger and thirst for righteousness, and the artist's love for the creative and the beautiful expresses love for the Creator" (48).

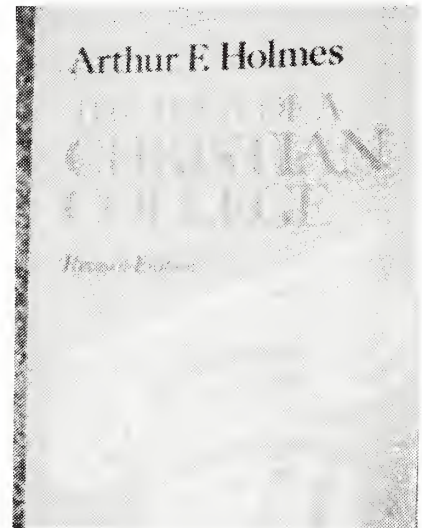
As faith works within the pattern of learning, a world view of integration may develop. Holmes insists that "God is at work in the history of the arts and sciences, as well as in the church and the nations, and this history continues today in our own efforts at a constructive relation of faith and learning" (54).

## Who is an educated person?

Holmes is quite clear in his list of traits that define an educated person. At work in the educated life are the following: (a) an "unceasing stimulus to honest inquiry" (61); (b) "freedom to grow, to gain stimulation and to give it" (62); (c) "freedom to meet great minds of the past and present, to interact rigorously with their ideas and weigh their values" (62); (d) an openness of mind and heart so that the possibility of transcending the past in order to meet a new future exists; (e) a discipline of mind to be "subject to change, correction, and expansion" (66); (f) an integration of faith and learning so that "faith gives direction and meaning to learning" (81); (g) a cultivation of the intellect in order to "involve people in their culture" (84); (h) the "experience of making reasonable value judgments" (95); (k) the development of ourselves as "responsible agents" (96).

## Conclusion

What kind of student do we want to have coming out of a Christian college? Do we want a student to find a job and make money? Do we want a student to be socially successful foremost? What? Holmes again lists characteristics of the kind of student a Christian college might graduate, namely, a student who has "breadth of understanding, openness to new ideas, intellectual honesty about other views and about the problems in one's own, analytic and critical skills, not just verbal skills and powers of communication but grace and eloquence therein as well" (103). Add to these the qualities of mind which "should include a sense of history, and imagination that frees us to work at both old and new problems in fresh ways, and to ask fresh questions; and a wisdom that gets down to basic principles, spotting assumptions and seeing what they entail, seeing what is right and good and true, and making sound decisions accordingly" (103).

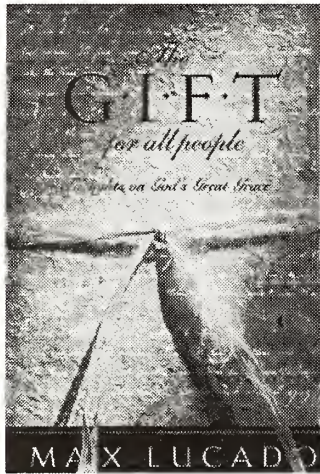


***The Ideal of a Christian College* is available at your local Bible and Bookstore:  
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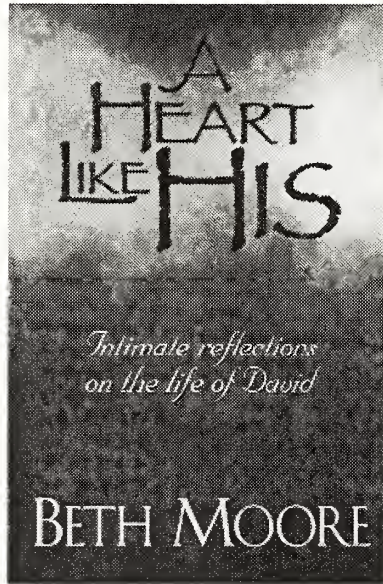
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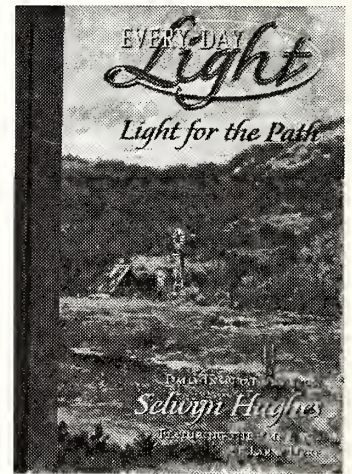
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## A Special Season

Why is Christmas a special time of the year? What makes the very attitude of everyone change so at this time of the year? Why do smiles grow broader and friendships fonder? Is it simply another December 25, or is it a special day which draws our attention to God and His Son, Christ Jesus?

Christmas has found its way into every nook and corner of American life. Business places remind us that Christmas is just around the corner, even weeks before the day arrives. Each little town and village becomes decorated with bright lights swaying across the streets.

It is true that there are many things which take place at this season of the year which should not be. Many will celebrate it in a spirit of revelry and ungodly conduct. Just as any other day of the year, many will celebrate Christmas Day in sin. For those people, it will be a special day, but it will not be special to the satisfaction of their heart and soul.

What really makes Christmas a special time of the year? For the answer, we only have to go back to that day in Bethlehem; there we see the joy and good will which came to earth. That same joy and good will has been magnified thousands upon thousands of times since that day in Bethlehem.

On that great night, God's angels admonished the shepherds to have no fear but to realize that the words spoken were words of joy and happiness. Also, all glory and praise belonged to God the Father. God hasn't changed, but man has, so far as his true devotion to Christ, and as a result other things have crowded into our hearts — driving out the true spirit of Christmas.

Christmas is a time of love and praise — love for God and His Son, Christ Jesus — praise to Him for His unspeakable Gift of salvation. At least this is what it should mean to the Christian. Gifts should be given because of love. Friends should be visited as motivated by love. This love should reach forth to all those whom we met. Jesus came because of God's great love for lost humanity; therefore, the least we can do is to manifest a degree of the same love in our own hearts and lives.

It should also be a time of unselfish devotion to God. The devotion can best be illustrated as we think of the unselfishness of the Wise Men who

journeyed for miles to bring gifts to the Christ Child. From their example gifts are exchanged today.

However, we have no record of their giving gifts to one another, but to Christ! Now what has happened to the gifts due Christ? Occasionally, we hear of some group or individual who presents a gift to the church or some sound charitable organization, and often this gift is equal to the amount given to all others. This is a good investment for anyone.

Next, it should be a time of peace and joy. The angels announced this peace as being on earth which was to come unto the hearts of men as a result of the birth of Christ. Nations, in general, have never been able to know real peace, but individuals in every nation where the gospel has been preached have known this peace. The gospel is not a social message, but a message of deliverance to individuals without Christ, which is the means by which societies are benefited. It is a good time to remember that there can be no peace without the Prince of Peace.

There are many things about Christmas which makes it wonderful; in fact, there are so many glorious things that there should never be time for the less glorious. The entire season is toned up to a joyous, bright occasion. Each year we hear the familiar Christmas carols sung over and over again and we never grow tired of them. The sidewalks and malls in each town are busy with the hustle and bustle of the yuletide season. Little wonder that we await this season with great anticipation each year. It is a time of family reunions, when children return home from college or the armed services, when grandmother and grandfather expect to see their grandchildren again and maybe some of them for the first time.

If there are faults to be pointed out, let's not blame the season. Instead, let us blame ourselves for not allowing it to be the special day which God intended. Let's make it Christ centered.

—Reprinted from December, 1960, Editorial.



*C. H. Overman*



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**NEXT MONTH**

January is  
**Retirement Homes  
 Month**

*December is  
 Foreign Missions  
 Month*

# Advent

by the Rev. James A. Evans

We no longer treat Advent as a fasting time, but during it we think especially of the two comings (*Advent* means coming) of Jesus. The first is the coming of Jesus Christ, who is God the Son, to earth, sent by God the Father to become human like ourselves, to teach us about God, and to die so that we can be forgiven our sins and be saved from the results of them.

The second is the time to which the church looks forward, when Jesus shall come again to earth in His majesty as God the Son, to judge the living and all those who have died.

The first Advent is sufficiently plain though we may not always regard it as we should. The first Advent became a blessed fact because of God's supreme love for His erring children; coupled with the other fact that while man had the power to fall he could not rise up again. He could stray away from God, but could not return to Him; he was powerless to find Him again. Man

could sin, but he could neither refrain from sinning or make atonement. So Jesus came to do what man in his helpless estate could not do for himself.

Like the traveler in the parable, man lay helpless on the road of life, naked, wounded, half dead. There was no one to help. The priest and the Levite passed by.

There was only one who had the power to raise up and heal. He had all the love too, and Jesus came as a Good Samaritan, the Friend of

sinners, the Saviour of the world.

There is another Advent for which the church is hoping, praying, watching. Will it come in the night or yet in the morning? Will it startle us in our sinning or surprise us in our worship, in our repentance, contrition, or yet come to us as a blessed relief from an environment of sin — come to us as freedom comes to the prisoner in his cell? We know not. We may ask, "What is the sign of His coming?" or, "When shall it be?" If we pass from that contemplation and consider that the real fact of Christ's coming lies in the time when God shall call us away from the sins of the earth, we shall find for everyone of us that the second Advent may be nearer than we think, near enough that surely none of us may ask, "Why does He tarry?" Therefore, it is the second Advent that may well concern us in this season. We should be as those who have all their life long been subject to bondage, and we should see to it that our lives are so ordered that not only death has no terror for us; but we should welcome the call. We shall rejoice to meet our Lord at His coming, for that will be His coming to meet us and to be joined with the loved ones who have gone before.

In closing, let us consider Romans 13:12-14: "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

So being ever ready, we shall rejoice when He comes; and even now, if, in the spirit of real faith, we can accept the invitation, "Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem."



(This message was printed in the December 21, 1960 issue of *The Free Will Baptist* when Mr. Evans was pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church, Bryan, Texas.)



# A Memorial Tribute

## The Rev. James A. Evans

(November 10, 1905 — October 25, 1999)

W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus, Mount Olive College

A patriarch of the Christian faith has fulfilled his mission and now rests from his labors.

Born November 10, 1905, the life of the Reverend James Alfonzo Evans stretched the length and breath of the Twentieth Century. Ordained into the Christian ministry in January 1926, he touched every fabric in the work of Original Free Will Baptists. To outline his ministry is to chart the pilgrimage of our church during the century now ending. In 1923, at the age of seventeen, he left the family farm at Lucama, NC, and enrolled in the Free Will Baptist Seminary at Ayden to equip himself for his calling into the ministry. As the Seminary evolved into Eureka College, he continued his studies in this institution until 1926.

During these years of study, he honed a love and understanding of education that was to make him a leader among Original Free Will Baptists. His love for education and his commitment to high standards for the ministry were to become a hallmark of his life. I remember to this day a sermon I heard him preach on this subject more than a half-century ago. His text was 2 Timothy 1:7; "For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

As a teenager, pondering my own call into the ministry, his emphasis upon developing the mind God has given us was a message that has made a difference in my life. With the Apostle Paul, Mr. Evans believed that we should study to show ourselves approved upon God, workmen who need not to be ashamed, but ministers who can rightly and honestly interpret the work of truth (see 2 Timothy 2:15).

To celebrate his life is to recognize some of the monumental contributions he made to the Free Will Baptist Church, which he loved and

to which he gave the full measure of his devotion. Ordained into the ministry at the age of nineteen, he served more than twenty churches in North Carolina, plus pastorates in Florida and Texas. More than anything else, he was a pastor who understood what it means to be a shepherd of souls. He was not only a wise counselor but also a man of vision and faith.

Consider his pastorate at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro. At the time of his arrival in 1963, the church was worshiping in an old house that had been built for a residence. The building was badly in need of major repairs; moreover, the membership had been substantially reduced by a recent self-serving pastor. When Mr. Evans proposed the building of a sanctuary, the membership was astounded — enter a massive building program with only \$500.00 in the treasury! "How are you going to do it?" they asked. "By faith," he replied. And thus, one of the most beautiful sanctuaries in the Free Will Baptist denomination was not only built but in due time was paid for.

Mr. Evans is remembered not only for his leadership in building church facilities but even more for his pastoral services, as evidenced by the lengthened shadow of his pastorate at Union Grove Church in Wayne County. His ministry to this church was during 1932-40 — the era of the Great Depression. More than fifty years later, a young boy in that church, who went on to become a successful optometrist and businessman, established the "James A. Evans Lecture" at Mount Olive College to foster in ministers the pastoral qualities he remembered in Mr. Evans. In endowing this annual lecture, Dr. Thomas R. Morris said, "I remember his visiting in my home and the care



The Rev. James A. Evans

he had for people."

His ministry not only penetrated deeply into the churches he served but it extended broadly into the total work of Original Free Will Baptists. A few examples will illustrate the outreach of his work: member of the Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Press, co-founder of the Church Finance Association, first chairman of the Board of Directors of Cragmont Assembly, chairman of the NC Board of Missions, president of the Free Will Baptist Historical Association and superintendent of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home at Middlesex.

In March 1954, he became the first full-time employee of Mount Olive College. To provide leadership for launching the College, he gave up his pastoral work and by faith put the security of his family on the outcome of this adventure. It must be remembered that at this time, the college was in an abandoned elementary school building with no funds, no students, no faculty, and probably had more critics and doubters than supporters.

His faith in the cause of Christian higher education was vindicated by the subsequent success and development of the College. In 1994, Mount Olive College awarded him its first honorary degree — Doctor of  
cont....

Divinity. In receiving the degree, Mr. Evans gave testimony to the faith which had sustained him for nearly ninety years: "The same person who has brought me this far today and who will carry me the rest of the way will also guide you if you will let him. And his name is Jesus."

To perpetuate his ministry for future generations, his family and friends have established the "James A. and Fay A. Evans Endowed Ministerial Scholarship Fund," at Mount Olive College.

The Rev. Evans was the son of the late Arthur and Nettie Moore Evans. He was predeceased by his wife, Ethel Fay Andreu Evans, and a daughter Lorraine Bass. In addition to his daughter, Ann Evans Had-dock, he is survived by another daughter, Kay Evans Griffin, of Midlothian, Virginia, and a son, J. Arthur Evans of Georgetown, Texas; a sister, Louvenia Smith Buchanan, of Marion, NC; twelve grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

He served churches in North Carolina, Texas, and Florida. His first pastoral position was with Fremont Chapel, Fremont.

Funeral services were held on October 28, 11:00 AM, at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro. Participating ministers were: Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president Emeritus, Mount Olive Collge; the Rev. Norman Ard, pastor; the Rev. C.H. Overman, editor of the Free Will Baptist Press; and the Rev. J. B. Narron, retired Air Force chaplain. Graveside services were conducted by Dr. De Wayne Eakes, pastor of Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church, Lucama, NC; and Dr. Michael R. Pelt, retired chair of the Department of Religion at Mount Olive College.

Memorials may be made to the James A. and Fay A. Evans Ministerial Scholarship Endowment at Mount Olive College.

## **Christmas: You're in Control**

by Larry Burkett

The way we observe Christmas these days is a far cry from the tranquil manger scene that welcomed Christ into the world some 2,000 years ago.

Consider the following contrasts:

- the solitude of the manger versus today's "Christmas rush,"
- God's mercy in sending His Son versus the rudeness and selfishness of holiday shoppers,
- the free gift of salvation versus the forced giving of commercialization,
- the adoration of the newborn King versus the commitments that distract us from worship, and
- the joyful anticipation of the shepherds versus the dread of the holiday scramble.

Christmas today is centered around gift giving, which isn't necessarily wrong unless people indulge.

For example, some people will actually go into debt to buy expensive gifts they can't afford and their family don't need.

We've become so imbalanced in our thinking that many people feel guilty if they can't buy such gifts.

But Christmas should be a time of close fellowship and sharing in the needs of others.

This sharing should be an extension of our practices during the previous 364 days, not something we do only once a year.

### **A shift of attitudes**

Gift giving plays such a major role in our Christmas observances that many people may not know it is a relatively new practice.

Until a couple of centuries ago, Christmas was observed as a noncommercial religious holiday.

For a long time, in most countries gifts were exchanged on New Year's Day. Christmas gifts were limited to feeding the poor or special gifts to pastors and missionaries.

As with most things that started out

right, somewhere along the way the direction of our Christmas observance shifted.

### **The search for fulfillment**

Our traditional way of celebrating Christmas is built around spending, a practice that many people hope will bring them fulfillment.

But in the November 1991 issue of *Money Matters*, writer Amy Dacyczyn (pronounced "decision") pointed to research by author Joe Dominguez on the "fulfillment curve," which shows that spending can reach a point at which it brings less and less fulfillment.

"Dominguez' theory is that when we spend money on the basics of survival — food, shelter, warmth, clothing — we receive maximum fulfillment for the dollar spent," Mrs. Dacyczyn said. "To a slightly lesser degree, we are fulfilled as we begin to spend on a few comforts and luxuries.

"Beyond this, however, the curve peaks and begins to drop so that we receive less fulfillment for the dollars spent."

Mrs. Dacyczyn illustrated this point with a story titled *The Christmas Fulfillment Drama*.

The story begins on Christmas morning inside the home of a couple, Clyde and Bunni, who anxiously await the reaction of their son Hubert to his many Christmas gifts.

Hubert begins by opening two presents; a sled and a construction set.

He is ecstatic and wants to play with the construction set, but Clyde insists he must open all his presents first.

After opening the next present, Hubert finds a toy car, action figures, and a child's pinball game.

His eyes are as big as saucers as he exclaims, "Cool! What else is for me?"

More tearing and flinging of paper reveals a toy wrestling ring, a cartoon video, and a toy guitar.

Hubert's inner monster begins to show itself as he disdainfully points and says, "I didn't want that wrestling

cont....



thing!"

He opens up presents containing more action figures, an electronic game, and a radio-controlled truck.

"Not this one," he says. "I told you I wanted the other truck." Bunni consoles him, "Don't worry Sweetie, we'll just take this one back and get the one you want."

Hubert sulks, pokes through the pile of torn wrapping paper, and says, "Is this all I got?"

*"He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income"* (Ecclesiastes 5:10).

## What can we do?

As Christians, we must take steps to restore the balance to our celebration of Christmas.

We need to make Christ the focus of our families' Christmas celebrations. After all, his birth is the most important birth in history. *"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him"* (John 3:17).

As for gift giving, pray about the amount you should spend, make a commitment to spend no more, and stick by your commitment. If you're married, pray with your spouse.

Also commit to give at least a tithe (10 percent) of your Christmas spending amount to causes like caring for orphans, spreading the Gospel, and providing alternatives to abortion through crisis pregnancy centers.

Finally, stamp out Christmas credit. As bad as commercialized Christmas is, commercialized Christmas on credit is even worse!

Some families spend months paying back the debt they incur to obtain gifts. *"The borrower becomes the lender's slave"* (Proverbs 22:7).

## We're in charge

As another Christmas celebration approaches, we can take heart in the fact that Christmas gift giving is something *totally* under our control.

There's nothing wrong with giving gifts at Christmas. We simply must be careful not to indulge. After all, it's the misuse of gifts giving that entangles us, thereby diverting our attention from Christ to material things.

But as the apostle Paul noted in 2 Timothy 2:4, *"No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier."*

*Christian Financial Concepts, reprinted by permission.*

# The Winter of My Life

by Elaine Swinson

The fine mist of age has gently fallen in my life. The great plan for the "tomorrows" have raced into the "today's," and have faded quietly into the "yesterdays," leaving traces of memories scattered among the dreams.

In the winter of my life I am content to know that I have been an integral part of the lives of the church family. I have shared in their joys, sprinkled liberally with the laughter and racing feet of children as they danced their way into maturity.

God's gentle lessons resound in my ears as the generations passed from the Sunday school nursery through the senior classes. The feet of His army marched gallantly each Sunday morning, jarring the window panes in their enthusiasm. The smiles of the children have brightened even the dreariest day, while their soft tears have broken the coldest heart. I have shared all their secrets, heard all the great plans for their futures and watched them fulfill their dreams.

Their soft, sweet smelling baby clothes began the parade of bright colors and curious fads, which led them into beautiful wedding gowns touched with lace and satin. The boys stepped proudly from short pants through the roughness of denim into tuxedos, as they stood mesmerized by the eyes of their beautiful brides. Happily, I was there through it all.

I have seen happiness, tiredness, anxiety, and fear reflected on the faces of the young parents in their journey through life. As one goal was reached or lost, another was dreamed. Their busy hands and bountiful hearts produced and directed magnificent Christmas plays, Bible schools, church bazaars, relief programs, youth projects and a never ending array of ideas in the service of their Lord. I heard their prayers of joy and their cries for help in their pain.

Suddenly, and before they could turn around twice, gray hairs were shining and their children were grown. Holding on to their youth with one hand and to their autumn years with the other, they balanced their ideas and dreams carefully until both hands could grasp the future. What a beautiful family of God they have become.

Those who built this house of God quietly stand in the wings, available to advise on a variety of subjects ranging from how to build a new building to how much salt should be added to the collards. I have been a part of their climb to their mountaintops and their sudden descent into their valleys. For some, the echo of their stride has added a third gentle thump of a walking cane to help them along the way. The clear ring of their laughter has become the gentle sound of raindrops falling on a tin roof — comforting and contented.

My fondest memories are of the ones who came together to share in the Lord's Supper and wash the Saint's feet at our church. There was always a reverent quietness as friends and neighbors expressed their deep love for other by kneeling and gently washing each other's feet. Whispers of "I love you" and soft kisses planted on a cheek preached a greater sermon than words could ever express.

Have you guessed by now who I am. My productive years have passed and soon I will be replaced, but the memories of my experiences will never disappear. For you see, I am the carpet on the floor of the fellowship hall in Free Union Free Will Baptist Church.

# Emmaus Fellowship Day of Remembrance at Free Union Free Will Baptist in Sea Level

by Pepper Worthington

The Free Union Free Will Baptist Church at Sea Level, NC, was full on Sunday, November 7, 1999 — a special Emmaus Fellowship Day of Remembrance. People from all over Down East of Carteret County came to remember ancestors whose faith had built the church and the Christian community of high tiders.

Deanne Taylor opened the celebration with a favorite hymn, "What A Friend We Have in Jesus." The hymn was dedicated to her husband's father, Tilmon Taylor, one of the deacons at Free Union who has gone before us to meet the Lord. Deanna sang a second song of dedication "Roses Will Bloom Again" in honor of Lisa LeMay who left the community to be with the Lord this fall.

The Taylors have been a part of Free Union Church for over half a century. Harry Taylor offered a poem written by his great uncle, Allen Taylor:

## I Remember

*It's too late now to ponder  
About the things I could have done*



Deanna Taylor sang "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" to honor her husband's father, Tilmon Taylor.

*Since on my nearest birthday  
I will be just 81.*

*My thoughts go back to  
Mother*

*And I try to see her face  
The sweet smile that she gave  
me*

*When in her fond embrace.*

*My Father and my Mother  
Left no pictures now to see  
So now I only see them  
Through a failed memory.*

*They were both so good and kind to me  
And tried to guide me right  
I hope I met their fond request  
When even out of their sight.*

*James, Joe and Lige my brothers three  
We made a male quartette  
Sisters, Isabelle and Em  
I never shall forget.*

*Seven of the family eight  
Have now all passed away  
When my call comes I hope to meet  
Them all at the Pearly Gate.*

—Allen Taylor



The congregation at Free Union Church in Sea Level celebrate Emmaus Fellowship Sunday on November 7, 1999.

Hamilton, Lucy Hamilton, John Lupton, Harry Lupton, Laura Lupton, Jim Willis, Ardell Gaskill, Annis Gaskill Harvey, Floyd Gaskill, Tilmon Taylor, Laura and Alice Taylor, Washington Gaskill, Jeff Fulcher, Marie Taylor Lloyd, Julian Gaskill.

Rev. Warning announced that Rev. Stryon celebrates 50 years of ministry this year, upon which Rev. Stryon said, "I thank the Lord for that many years to preach."

Music flowed forth on this special Sunday. Mary Willis sang "This Is the Place for Miracles" and reminded all of us that God is the place where healing waters flow. God always knows what lies ahead and He is never too far from wherever we are. Mary sang of the precious seeds of faith that can grow as we walk toward the harvest that God has promised.

Pianist Jack Goodwin played music from the opera, "Faust." Debbie and Lynn Gaskill sang an upbeat melody, "I'm Bound for A City."

The Rev. Michael G. Warning spoke of the village of Emmaus which the Bible noted was a little over seven miles from Jerusalem. "On the road to Emmaus two people talked

cont....





Folks at Sea Level enjoyed breaking bread together at the Emmaus Fellowship Sunday.

about the Crucifixion, the burial, and the accounts of the Resurrection," Rev. Warning began. "A stranger joined them and he asked about these things concerning Jesus of Nazareth. The two men told the stranger of the women who went to the tomb on this third day and how they found the body of Jesus gone. The women had seen a vision of angels who told them Jesus was alive. The two men then asked the stranger to abide with



Pauline Gaskill won the handcarved inlaid Indian chest from Mumbai, India, at the Emmaus Fellowship drawing.

them. As the stranger sat down with them, he took the bread, broke it, and they knew him at that moment. Then the stranger vanished out of their sight. They had seen Jesus," he explained.

"Today is all about communion, about our celebration of breaking bread together. The two men on the road to Emmaus were able to see Christ as they broke bread together. Anytime we break bread together in the Lord's name, the Lord is with us," he



Almeta Taylor won the brass telescope from Mumbai, India, at the Emmaus Fellowship drawing. Mamie Taylor (right) celebrates with her.

said. "There are three things of importance that happened for the two men on the way to Emmaus. First, they had an early experience of the Resurrection. Second, they had a good meal together for God had provided all manner of good things to eat. Third, they learned the importance of instituting prayer before a meal. They learned to expect Christ to be present whenever people get together," he noted.

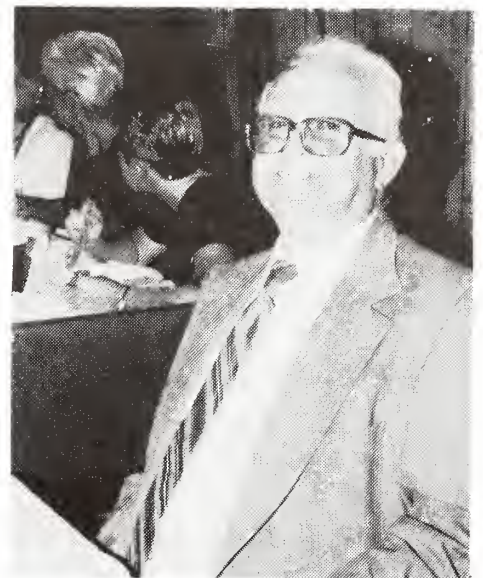


Tilmon Taylor (left) and his brother Harry Taylor (right) celebrate the Emmaus Day Sunday.

"Today we want to give arms and legs and faces from the past to the present. We want to remember people who have gone before us. We must invite the Lord to sup with us in fellowship, with our families. And the Lord will be present," he concluded.

Rev. Warning pulled out his guitar to accompany the singing of a favorite hymn, "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder." Everyone sang and the Lord was present.

The Emmaus Day Fellowship meal took place following the worship service. The Lord was present.



The Rev. Clifton Styron celebrates 50 years of ministry as a Free Will Baptist preacher.



## Our Family Enrichment Center

by the Rev. Owen Arthur

I am reminded of a song, "Friends are Friends Forever." During the last couple of months this is what Camp Vandemere has experienced. Many of our friends have come to help in various ways.

I would like to say a big "Thank you" for those who came down to the camp prior to the hurricanes and helped us prepare for them. The weekend of August 28-30 several of the camp's friends came to help get the camp ready for Hurricane Dennis. These people gave up their afternoon to drive to the camp, moved picnic tables, and secured anything that was a threat, to minimize possible damage. It was a hot humid day, but friends didn't mind; they came to help the camp and lift up the Lord. I would like to express our appreciation to the following churches: Macedonia, New Bethlehem, Arapahoe, Juniper Chapel, White Oak Grove, and Memorial for working so hard to prepare the camp for the hurricane. Friends are truly a blessing, especially when you need them.

The camp appreciates those who directed a week of camp as well as those who came as counselors and workers. Without you our camp week would not be successful. Also, we want to say thank you to our staff who worked to make the summer a success.

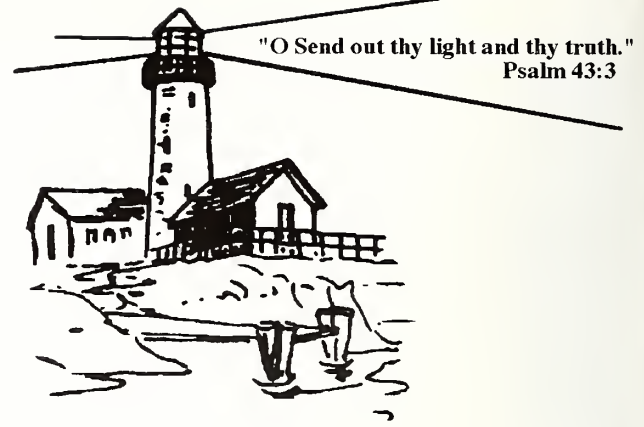
Saturday, August 14, we celebrated our third annual "Singing by the River." Again, this was a time when many friends of the camp worked very hard to make the day a success. There was an abundance of workers as our board members, their spouses, and volunteers helped wherever needed. I certainly don't want to leave out those who remained after

the singing was over and helped take the tent down. This was hard work and they were willing to do it just because they were friends of the camp. Thank the Lord for Christians who are willing to give their time and talents to spread the gospel.

We appreciate the singers who came on a very hot day, donated their talents, and lifted up the name of the Lord. They were: The Four in Christ, Second Edition, Covenant, The Smith Family, and Servant Heart. We don't want to leave out the Master of Ceremonies for the day, the Rev. Everette Harper. Also we want to say a very special thanks to Home Missions and Evangelism for the use of the tent. Keep them in your prayers and don't forget them when you are planning your church budget.

We have had a good summer. Souls have been saved and others rededicated to the Lord. Many have been down for a weekend, others have come to spend a day, some just came down to go fishing, while some came for a quiet weekend get-a-way. Isn't it wonderful to know that the Lord has blessed Free Will Baptists with a camp that is just a couple of hours drive of most of our churches. It is a Christian camp for Christian people.

If you haven't yet been to the camp you are missing a blessing. During the "Singing by the River" I heard several say this was the first time they had been to the camp and they were pleased with what they saw and experienced. For those who have not been for a long time, let me encourage you to make a special effort to come again. There have been a lot of



changes since you were there. In order to be aware of the camp activities, please subscribe to the *Free Will Baptist*. This is also an excellent way to keep up with other events taking place in our denomination.

We would like for you to continue to pray for the camp as well as continue your support for the camp. If you don't have the camp in your budget, we ask you to prayerfully consider adding it. For further information about the camp, you may call Owen Arthur at 252-633-1185. To send a donation you may contact Mrs. Judith Kennedy, 933 North, NC 41, Pink Hill, NC 28572.

Many rumors have been circulated concerning the camp. Allow me to put all these to rest and tell you what our plans are for Camp Vandemere. The camp is going to build back and will be ready for campers and guests by the Spring of 2000. Plans are in the making to decide what type of pool to install as well as relocating it. We are looking at possibly doing something different with our piers. We have several months before the camp reopens and the board is looking at everything carefully. There are several other things in the planning stage that are too numerous to mention at this time. As future plans unfold, we will share them with you.

At the first of this article I mentioned the song, "Friends are Friends Forever." Camp Vandemere would like for you to be our friend during this time of rebuilding.



# December is Foreign Missions Month



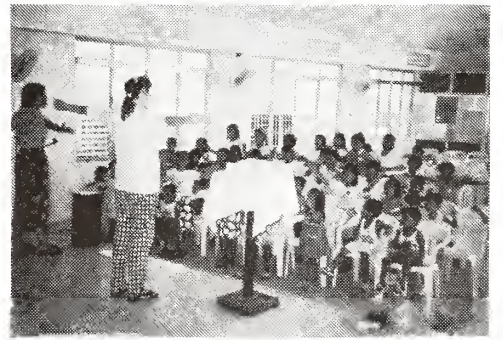
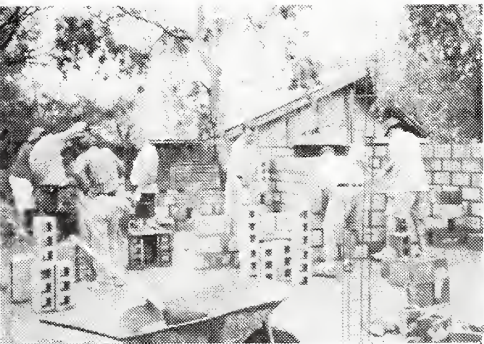
Your help is needed to reach the lost with the Gospel, establish local churches, feed the hungry, house the displaced and minister to street children and orphans.

Never has the need been greater than today. We will spend millions of dollars on material things this Christmas trying to express our love and care for one another, while much of the world dwells in spiritual darkness, hunger, and disease and it's almost 2000 AD.

I, therefore, ask you to consider the needs of others this Christmas and give a generous sacrificial gift to Foreign Missions for their benefit.

I believe this will add depth and meaning to Christmas far beyond the usual celebration.

God bless you with the joy of that First Christmas as you turn your heart and concerns toward others.





# Mindanao Worker's Orientation

by Dario S. Basingil



*Mindanao Worker's Orientation*

After our Worker's Orientation at Cebu District, we proceeded to Mindanao District to conduct another Orientation. At present Mindanao is qualified to become another district and now separated from Visayas District.

We had 22 people who attended our Worker's Orientation from the following cities of Mindanao: Iligan City, Butuan City, Dipolog City, Ozamis City, and Cagayan de Oro City.

The Rev. Dario Basingil explained the three things about the District under the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines:

## I. Objective and Purpose

1. To glorify God (Ephesian 1:6).
2. To support the total program of Free Will Baptist Church Philippines.
  - a. Evangelization/Winning/Souls
  - b. Church planting
  - c. Financing
  - d. By implementing the policy

## II. Policy

1. Qualification of Officers
  - a. Must be a member of Free Will Baptist Church Philippines, rooted and grounded in faith.
  - b. Good standing as a member of the local church.
  - c. Must be oriented in the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines doctrine.
  - d. Must accept Bible as a final authority.
  - e. Have the ability to comprehend the Original Free Will Baptist Church Philippines constitution and by-laws and other legal matters.
  - f. Able to handle counseling for church conflict, pastor, workers, members and etc., under the district jurisdiction.
  - g. Willing to accept Christian advice/admonition.

- h. Willing to support all district activities.
2. Terms of Office
  - a. All officers shall expire their terms of office every 2 years of service.
  - b. To appoint in terms of vacancy.
  - c. He/She must be qualified for two years only.
  - d. In case of misconduct of an officer the governing body has the right to apply disciplinary measures.
  - e. Election must be on the 2nd week of July, 2000.

## III. Goal

To reach the unreached.

We have an installation of the following District Officers of Mindanao: Pastor Mervin Indino, chairman (from

cont....



*The Rev. Zacarias Perocillo led a prayer for the new elected officers of the Mindanao District.*



*The Rev. Dario Basingil gave the message during the Worker's Orientation of Mindanao District.*

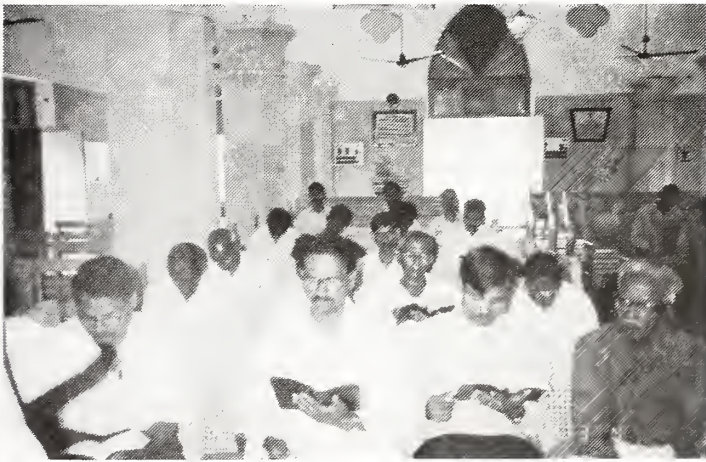


# News Letters from India and Nepal

by Dr. E.M. Lall

Our Council Meeting held on September 1, 1999, was attended by 82 members of those supported by the Board and those on complete self support. It was a unique meeting of thanksgiving for the Board and the people in North Carolina for sharing the work here. Excitement roused on hearing the news of starting an English Medium School at Bareilly. All stood up in reverence to greet the Convention scheduled in North Carolina this month. A resolution was passed to enhance the work of our church in rural areas where the need for preaching the Word is imminent. People were happy to know about the visit of our Director-Treasurer of Foreign Missions in the month of October, 1999.

Our congregation in the rural areas are furthering the interest of unity and telling about salvation of men in the neighboring villages. The Neoria congregation is pioneering in this venture and showing to other such rural



*Counciling meeting of ministers and deacons held on September 1, 1999.*



## *Mindanao Worker's Orientation, cont....*

Cagayan de Oro City); Pastor Adrian Omadle, vice-chairman (from Iligan City); Felix Salili, secretary (from municipality of Naawan, Misamis Oriental); Leo Cadavos, auditor (from Ozamis City.)

Pray for these officers to be active in their position that God has entrusted to them.

congregations to be involved in preaching work as well.

There is an abandoned Christian graveyard lying totally uncared for at Fatehganj west about 17 miles from Bareilly. This is a monument of 18th century when British Soldiers fought with the Muslim King ruling Northern India at that time. All the dead were buried in a well on which a tomb was erected. Our church managed to take it over out of Christian sentiments, to maintain and use the land appurtenant to it. We propose to build a Primary school with English Medium when it is possible. We have kept the watchman and recently installed a water pump and cleaned the entire land.

The torrential and heavy rainfall at the nick-end of rainy season has created havoc in Northern India. The church at Bareilly remained full of water for a few days and the situation in the city was pathetic. The State of Bihar is worst sufferer.



*Neoria congregation in rural India.*



*Abandoned Christian graveyard.*

## 2000 Summer Camp Schedule

### Morning Star

April 28-30, 2000  
Teresa Ball  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530  
252-524-4677

### Minister's Conference

May 22-25, 2000  
Doug Skinner  
817 Lynn Road  
Durham, NC 27703  
919-596-2456

### June Women's Auxiliary Conference

June 5-10, 2000  
Teresa Ball  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530  
252-524-4677

### Cragmont Youth Conference

June 12-17, 2000  
Bryant Hines  
PO Box 266  
Cove City, NC 28523  
252-633-2683

### Christian Cadet Conference

June 19-24, 2000  
Gary Bailey  
112 Crosswinds Drive  
Goldsboro, NC 27530  
919-735-3916

### Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)

June 26-July 1, 2000  
Janie Sowers  
PO Box 824  
Middlesex, NC 27557  
252-235-7542

### Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)

July 3-8, 2000  
Frankie Baggett  
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Ayden, NC 28513  
252-746-7850

### General Youth II Conference

July 10-15, 2000  
Chris Singleton  
PO Box 162  
Beulaville, NC 28518  
910-298-3520

### General Youth I Conference

July 17-22, 2000  
Bryant Hines  
PO Box 266  
Cove City, NC 28523  
252-633-2683

### Young People's Bible Conference

July 24-29, 2000  
James Gurganus  
1317 Nine Foot road  
Newport, NC 28570  
252-223-5251

### August Women's Auxiliary Conf.

July 31-August 5, 2000  
Teresa Ball  
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
Grifton, NC 28530  
252-524-4677

## Cragmont Club Retreats

Cragmont Assembly  
1233 North Fork Road  
Black Mountain, NC 28711  
828-699-7677

**Cragmont Club Weekend Retreat I**  
October 13-15, 2000

**Cragmont Club Weekend Retreat II**  
October 20-22, 2000

**Cragmont Club Week Day Retreat**  
October 23-25, 2000

### MINISTER'S PROGRAM

The Minister's Program  
in Partnership with Larry Burkett and  
*Christian Financial Concepts*  
will present a workshop on

# Pastor's Finances

This is a one day conference designed to give pastors and their spouses a better understanding of the biblical principles that apply to personal and church finances. The presenter will be Jack Anderson from Atlanta, Georgia.

**Date:** February 5, 2000  
**Time:** 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
**Place:** The Murphy Center  
Mount Olive College

Registration information to be mailed.



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP HOLDERS TO BE HELD February 15, 2000**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Church Finance Association, Inc. will be held as follows:

Place:

Friendship Free Will Baptist Church  
Farmville, North Carolina

Date:

February 15, 2000

Time:

10:30 AM

The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To review the financial conditions of the Association and to act on the financial report.
2. The election of one (1) member of the Board of Directors to hold office for a term of five years.
3. The transaction of any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

You are urged to attend the meeting in person. However, membership holders who do not expect to attend are requested to sign, date, and return the proxy. The executive of this proxy will not affect your right to revoke such proxy or to vote in person should you later decide to attend the meeting.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
William D. Thigpen, Secretary

*Christmast Buffet & Music by the Mount Olive Community Ensemble*

**Tuesday, December 14, 1999  
7:00 PM**

**Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

Join us for a delicious dinner and wonderful program of Christmas music for the sixth annual Christmas Buffet.

Reservations are requested by December 1.  
\$11.00 adults, \$6.00 children 12 and under  
(Prices include beverage and tax.)

For more information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement and Planning at (919) 658-2502.

----- Clip and Mail to: -----

Christmas Buffet, Mount Olive College,  
634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend the Christmas Buffet.

There will be \_\_\_\_\_ in my party and my check is enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$11 per adult, \$6 per child). Checks should be made payable to Mount Olive College. Reserved seating will be available for parties of six or more.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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**Morning Star**

April 28-30, 2000  
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**Minister's Conference**

May 22-25, 2000  
 Doug Skinner  
 817 Lynn Road  
 Durham, NC 27703  
 919-596-2456

**June Women's Auxiliary Conference**

June 5-10, 2000  
 Teresa Ball  
 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
 Grifton, NC 28530  
 252-524-4677

**Cragmont Youth Conference**

June 12-17, 2000  
 Bryant Hines  
 PO Box 266  
 Cove City, NC 28523  
 252-633-2683

**Christian Cadet Conference**

June 19-24, 2000  
 Gary Bailey  
 112 Crosswinds Drive  
 Goldsboro, NC 27530  
 919-735-3916

**Youth Frontier Conference (YFA)**

June 26-July 1, 2000  
 Janie Sowers  
 PO Box 824  
 Middlesex, NC 27557  
 252-235-7542

**Youth Frontier Conference (AFC)**

July 3-8, 2000  
 Frankie Baggett  
 5403 Weyerhaeuser Road  
 Ayden, NC 28513  
 252-746-7850

**General Youth II Conference**

July 10-15, 2000  
 Chris Singleton  
 PO Box 162  
 Beulaville, NC 28518  
 910-298-3520

**General Youth I Conference**

July 17-22, 2000  
 Bryant Hines  
 PO Box 266  
 Cove City, NC 28523  
 252-633-2683

**Young People's Bible Conference**

July 24-29, 2000  
 James Gurganus  
 1317 Nine Foot road  
 Newport, NC 28570  
 252-223-5251

**August Women's Auxiliary Conf.**

July 31-August 5, 2000  
 Teresa Ball  
 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road  
 Grifton, NC 28530  
 252-524-4677

## Cragmont Club Retreats

Cragmont Assembly  
 1233 North Fork Road  
 Black Mountain, NC 28711  
 828-699-7677

**Cragmont Club Weekend Retreat I**  
 October 13-15, 2000

**Cragmont Club Weekend Retreat II**  
 October 20-22, 2000

**Cragmont Club Week Day Retreat**  
 October 23-25, 2000

### MINISTER'S PROGRAM

The Minister's Program  
 in Partnership with Larry Burkett and  
*Christian Financial Concepts*  
 will present a workshop on

# Pastor's Finances

This is a one day conference designed to give pastors and their spouses a better understanding of the biblical principles that apply to personal and church finances. The presenter will be Jack Anderson from Atlanta, Georgia.

**Date:** February 5, 2000  
**Time:** 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
**Place:** The Murphy Center  
 Mount Olive College

Registration information to be mailed.



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP HOLDERS TO BE HELD February 15, 2000**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Church Finance Association, Inc. will be held as follows:

Place:  
Friendship Free Will Baptist Church  
Farmville, North Carolina

Date:  
February 15, 2000

Time:  
10:30 AM

The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To review the financial conditions of the Association and to act on the financial report.
2. The election of one (1) member of the Board of Directors to hold office for a term of five years.
3. The transaction of any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

You are urged to attend the meeting in person. However, membership holders who do not expect to attend are requested to sign, date, and return the proxy. The executive of this proxy will not affect your right to revoke such proxy or to vote in person should you later decide to attend the meeting.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
William D. Thigpen, Secretary

*Christmast Buffet & Music by the Mount Olive Community Ensemble*

**Tuesday, December 14, 1999**  
7:00 PM

**Lois K. Murphy Regional Center**

Join us for a delicious dinner and wonderful program of Christmas music for the sixth annual Christmas Buffet.

**Reservations are requested by December 1.**  
\$11.00 adults, \$6.00 children 12 and under  
(Prices include beverage and tax.)

For more information,  
contact the Office of  
Institutional Advancement and Planning  
at (919) 658-2502.

----- Clip and Mail to: -----

Christmas Buffet, Mount Olive College,  
634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend the Christmas Buffet.

There will be \_\_\_\_\_ in my party and my check is enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$11 per adult, \$6 per child).

Checks should be made payable to Mount Olive College. Reserved seating will be available for parties of six or more.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

# D e c e m b e r

Prayer

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Things

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
28	29	30	1
5 North Carolina Symphony "Christmas Pops" College Hall, MOC 3:00 PM  <b>Cragmont Christmas</b>	6	7	8
12	13	14 Mount Olive College Christmas Buffet 7:00 PM	15
19	20 	21	22
26 	27 FWB Bookstores Open FWB Press Closed FWB Headquarters Closed	28	29



Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Remember \_\_\_\_\_

	THU	FRI	SAT
	2	3	4
		Cragmont Christmas	
	9	10	11
	16	17	18 Mount Olive College Graduation, College Hall 2:00 PM
	23	24 FWB Bookstores Open FWB Press Closed FWB Headquarters Closed	25 FWB Bookstores Closed FWB Press Closed FWB Headquarters Closed  Christmas
	30	31	1



# DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR

## *Yopp Serves College and Denomination*

by Marci Rollins, student intern

In many ways, Tommy Yopp, a junior at Mount Olive College is just like any other student. He juggles a busy schedule of class work and extracurricular activities. He is president of Free Will Baptist Student Fellowship, a member of Fellowship of Christian Students, Theological Student Fellowship, the Ministries Effectiveness Team, the Ambassadors, Student Government Association, and the Student Judicial Board. However, there is one thing that sets Tommy aside from other students...he was recently ordained by the Eastern Conference of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and may now be called the Reverend Tommy Yopp.

Tommy did not always plan on working in the ministry, after high school he entered East Carolina University. He attended the larger, public college for one year and then entered the workplace. During the years that followed, Tommy felt God calling him into the ministry. As a member of Folkstone Free Will Baptist Church in Folkstone, Tommy decided to continue his education at Mount Olive College and major in religion. In addition to pursuing a degree in religion, Tommy said he was also "looking for smaller classrooms and more personal attention from professors."

Tommy especially likes the liberal arts curriculum at Mount Olive College because of the diversity of the institution. "Being in a diverse atmosphere, students learn how to present the gospel to people in a way that they can understand," Tommy said.

Tommy has found real life experience for his ministry on the campus of MOC, as well as in churches and other institutions in the Free Will Baptist denomination. Tommy has served as student minister at Sandy Plain and Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Churches and as pulpit supply at several other churches. He has

worked as a summer camp counselor at Cragmont Assembly and Camp Vandemere, and has served on a short-term mission trip to Mexico. Tommy stated that working with these ministries forced him to grow. It was through these ministries that Tommy learned ministers must know their own beliefs before they can lead others to Christ.

Tommy plans to finish his degree at Mount Olive College and then attend seminary. Although it is too early to tell how fellow students will react to Tommy being ordained, Tommy already feels more confident about his ministry. He can now hold communion, reside over business meetings and baptize individuals. He plans to hold a communion service for students during one of the College's



*Tommy Yopp, a junior at Mount Olive College, was recently ordained by the Eastern Conference of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptist.*

Sunday night worship services.

Tommy is the son of Randy and Evelyn Yopp of Sneads Ferry, North Carolina.

## **Coming Events...**

### **North Carolina Symphony "Christmas Pops"**

**Sunday, December 5**

Sing along to favorite carols and listen to popular holiday music. There will also be a few surprises and some light-hearted touches, from Santa hats to bass twirls. Bring the whole family to the celebration. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$13 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door. The concert will be at 3:00 PM in College Hall. Season tickets will be available for purchase at the door.

### **Christmas Buffet**

**Tuesday, December 14**

The Christmas Buffet features a delicious buffet dinner in a holiday atmosphere with holiday music provided by the Mount Olive Community Ensemble. The dinner will begin at 7:00 PM. Reservations must be made in advance. To get your tickets, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement and Planning at (919) 658-2502.

### **Graduation Day**

**Saturday, December 18**

The Commencement Worship Service will be in Rodgers Chapel at 10:30 AM and the graduation ceremony will be at 2:00 PM in College Hall.

### **Sunday Buffet**

**Sunday**

Mount Olive College invites you to our weekly Sunday Buffet in Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM. The cost is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children 12 years old and under (includes tax, beverage, dessert).



## Retreat Provides Uplifting Experience for MOC Students

by Marci Rollins, student intern

With school, work, and extracurricular activities, it is often difficult for college students to find time for rest and relaxation. However, for freshmen Jeffrey Sparrow, Steve Browne, Jack Boothe, Danielle Andrews, and Amy Lanier; sophomore Marci Rollins; and juniors Sharon Zirkle and Tommy Yopp, a weekend retreat away from books and studying was just what they needed.

The group left Mount Olive College filled with anticipation and excitement about the upcoming trip. The retreat to Oriental, North Carolina, was open to all members of religious life clubs on campus. It was organized to help students get away from their scholastic responsibilities, grow in their walk with Christ, and build closer relationships with each other.

The Rev. Mike Quintas, a recent graduate of Mount Olive College, led students through the weekend in praise, worship, and Bible study. On Saturday evening the group shared their talents of singing and playing musical instruments. They also performed a skit and a mime at the Pamlico County Dinner at Mount Zion Church.

The highlight of the weekend was the "Just God and Me" segment. During this time, participants experienced private time with God...a much-needed outlet in the busy lives of today's college students.

"The retreat was an uplifting experience I think we all needed," Marci Rollins from First Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro said. "Many of us get so involved with our studies and extracurricular activities that we often leave out our time alone with God as well as our fellowship time with other

Christians."

"I look forward to the spring retreat," Steven Browne, from Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Carteret County said. "I hope that more students will be able to join us so everyone can share in the wonderful experience of building new friendships and growing closer to God."



The Rev. Mike Quintas leads the group of MOC students in praise and worship songs during the retreat to Oriental. (L-R): Steven Browne of Holly Springs FWB Church; Sharon Zirkle of Woodbridge, Virginia; Tommy Yopp of Folkstone FWB Church; Jack Boothe of Carteret County; Amy Lanier of Sarecta FWB Church; the Rev. Mike Quintas of Mount Zion FWB Church in Pamlico County; Marci Rollins of First FWB Church of Goldsboro; Danielle Andrews of Wayne County; and Jeffery Sparrow of Wayne County.

## MOC Singers Performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

The Mount Olive College Singers spent Thanksgiving in New York City. It was the fourth time since 1989 that they have performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The Singers appeared in front of Macy's and again at the end of the parade.

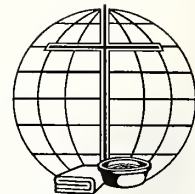
They performed in the parade as a part of a larger cast of singers and dancers called *America Sings!*, a nonprofit organization founded by choreographer John Jacobsen.

During their trip to New York City, the Mount Olive College Singers toured the newly renovated Radio City Music Hall and NBC Studios, as well as attended a performance of "Annie Get Your Gun" starring Bernadatt Peters. They also participated in an *America Sings!* service project for homeless children, delivering clothes to Rosie and Harry's Place, a shelter for homeless children.

Members of the 1999-2000 Mount Olive College Singers included Lee Buck of First Free Will Baptist Church in Tarboro; Leslie Ingram of Princeton; Garrett Southerland of Westside Free Will Baptist Church in Kinston; Kaisy Wilkerson of Melbourne, Florida; Jaime Britt of LaGrange; Courtney Pollard, Suffolk, Virginia; Lisa Nadeau and Sharon Zirkle of Woodbridge, Virginia; Jeffery Sparrow of Seven Springs; Jack Booth of Beaufort; Jason Cox of Goldsboro; and Steven Hamilton of Swansboro.



The Mount Olive College Singers



### A Tribute to Yelverton Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church

by Ann L. Austin

Just outside of the eastern North Carolina town of Smithfield there is a country road that meanders through farmers' fields of tobacco, wheat, beans, and other crops. Keeping watch along this road for the past one hundred years, stands Yelverton Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Growing up as a child of the 40s and 50s, I attended this church and learned about a living, loving God and His book, the Bible. I heard stories about the earth's creation, Noah's Ark of animals, and the great flood, how a child named Jesus was born, the miracles that He performed, how He was crucified on a cross, buried in a tomb, how He arose on the third day and later ascended into Heaven. There He has prepared a place for His children who accept Him, believe in Him, and live their lives for Him.

I also learned about Satan and how he tempts people to turn from God and follow his evil ways.

This church has some of the greatest people in our state! Good, honest people who work hard, pray hard, are always ready to help their neighbors, and they attend this church and worship their God!

Upon entering the church doors one can say, "Truly, the presence of God is in this place."

Surrounding the church is the cemetery where church members have buried their dead. When I walk softly among the stones and the markers, I can visualize the departed ones saying, "We're all at rest now, safe in the arms of Jesus." For a brief time I feel as if I am them and they are me and we are all one. I can almost hear a heavenly choir of

angels singing while God looks down and says, "Come unto me, all ye that are weak and heavy-laden, and I will give thee rest."

In this church is Love — and God is Love!

In this church is Peace — and God is Peace!

In this church is Comfort — and God is Comfort!

In this church is Eternity — and God is Eternity!

So, may love and peace and comfort continue to brighten the lives of all people who enter into the doors of Yelverton Grove Church, and may we all find everlasting Eternity with our heavenly Father: Jesus!

Today, as we gather here for this

October 1999, Homecoming, let us join together and ask God to "Bless this house" and help it to stand solid throughout the ages so that it will be a light for future generations of people who come here for Christian worship!

(This tribute to Yelverton Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, located east of Smithfield, NC, was written by Ann L. Austin on October 8, 1999. She presented the Tribute to the church during Homecoming Services on October 24, 1999. Ann has been a member of the church for many years and has attended since she was a very small child.)

### First Church Durham Honors Pastor

We, at First Free Will Baptist Church in Durham, NC, feel sure that God sent the Rev. Jeff Scarborough to us for a second time. We have seen great things happen under his ministry and leadership. A much needed heating and air conditioning system has been installed, and the outside of the church painted. There has been a new face-lift to the fellowship hall. It's amazing what paint and new carpet can do. Most important, we have seen souls saved and new members added. God has been at work through our pastor.

Rev. Scarborough is our preacher, pastor, counselor, and friend. He's always there when needed. The sick and shut-ins look forward to his regular visit. His messages feed our souls and bless our hearts.

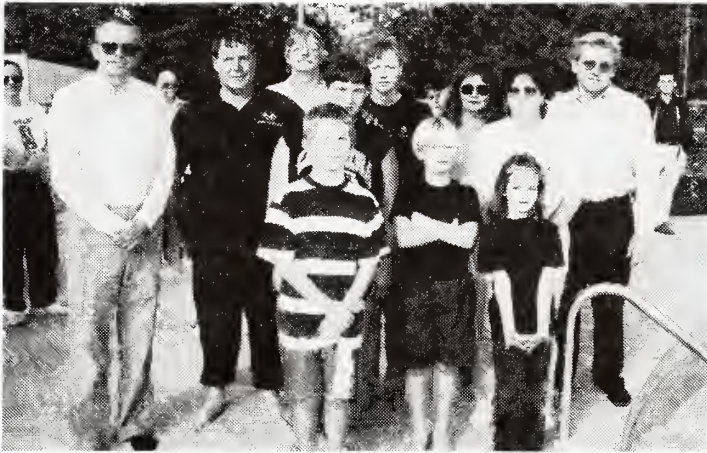
It was with great love and appreciation that we could honor him on Pastor Appreciation Day, October 10. The Rev. Rayford Byrd (associate pastor when Rev. Scarborough was here the first time) spoke in the 11:00 service. Lunch immediately followed. He was presented with monetary gifts, and a portrait and plaque in memory of his daughter, Anita, was hung in the fellowship hall. We thank God for the Rev. Jeff Scarborough.

Congregation, First Free Will Baptist Church.

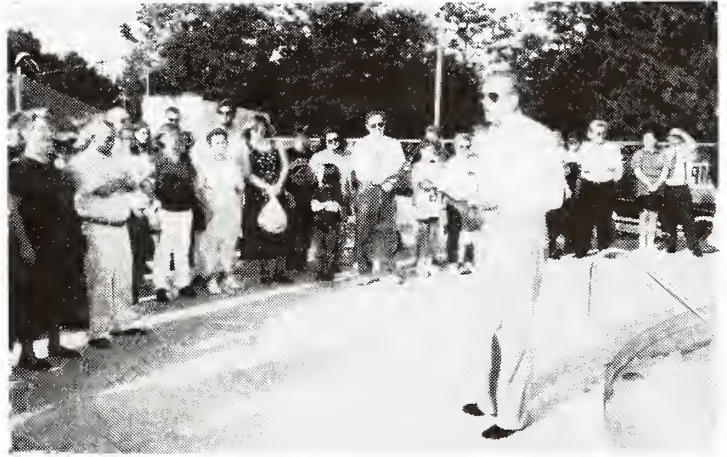


## Memorial Church Reaps Fruitful Harvest

Memorial Original Free Will Baptist Church, Chocowinity, NC, experienced a most successful revival during the week of October 25–29, 1999. The Rev. Buddy Sasser was the evangelist for the week and the church was blessed to see a total of eight persons make a confession of faith. A baptismal service was held on October 31 at Twin Lakes Campground near Chocowinity.



The Rev. Owen Arthur addressed those gathered for the baptism.



Pictured are: The Rev. Owen Arthur, pastor; Jesse Crisp, a recently licensed Original Free Will Baptist minister; Larry Edwards, Wayne Harding, Steele Hoffman, Meils and Blake Lemay, Delora Edwards, Teresa Hoffman, Linda Lupton, and Layle Hoffman. Jesse Crisp assisted Pastor Edwards.

## Another Salvage Operation

submitted by Adrian Grubbs, Pastor

It was a very pleasant day. The flood had receded and the sun was shining. Everyone in the group was excited...and sad. It is always exciting when Christians come together to help someone in need. About fifteen volunteers had gathered at the floodwashed house of Janie Kennedy and her son Carl Franklin. It was sad to walk through the house with buckled floors and to see so many irreplaceable personal items that could not be salvaged. Those good-hearted volunteers are from Deep Run Original Free Will Baptist Church, Deep Run, NC. They had responded to a call for help. They came with dust masks, vinyl gloves, trucks, trailers, willing hands, and hearts full of love. With care and caution they carried out clothing and furniture. Most of the furniture and many of the clothes could not be saved and was piled beside the street. Everything that could be kept was loaded for transport to temporary storage in a Deep Run packhouse, until Janie and Carl Franklin could find a permanent place to live. In the meantime, they would be moving into the house of Ethel Williams, who had recently died. Her daughter, Claudine, graciously offered them the use of the house with all its furnishings.

Janie could not help but weep as she watched so many of her belongings being placed on the trash pile. But her heart swelled with gratitude at the sight of so many friends who came to her aid, and knowing that others wanted to come

but could not. She choked back tears when she told me that she could not now verbalize how thankful she felt. But she managed a sincere smile as she asked me to tell them all how much she appreciated them and what they had done for her.

It is a difficult chore to step in and share the misery of another, but it was a good experience for us all. When a brother or a sister needs help, the good people of Deep Run rally to the cause.





## People & Events

### *Rose of Sharon Aids Flood Victims*

submitted by Peggy Bailey

Rose of Sharon Original Free Will Baptist Church near Bear Grass in Martin County, NC has always been known for a speedy response to the needs of those around them who are going through trying times.

That's why it was no surprise to travelers on State Road 1001 to see a huge Bear Grass Tours bus parked on the church lawn the Sunday after Hurricane Floyd dumped more than 20 inches of rain on Eastern North Carolina. The evidence was there that this was no normal outing for the members milling around the boxes and bags waiting to be loaded and transported to a shelter in neighboring Pitt County.

During worship service, church members Dorman and Lisa Drake, who own and operate Bear Grass Tours, offered their bus as a vehicle to transport items to victims who had fled their homes with only the clothes they were wearing. Their challenge was answered with enthusiasm and hundreds of dollars were collected on the spot.

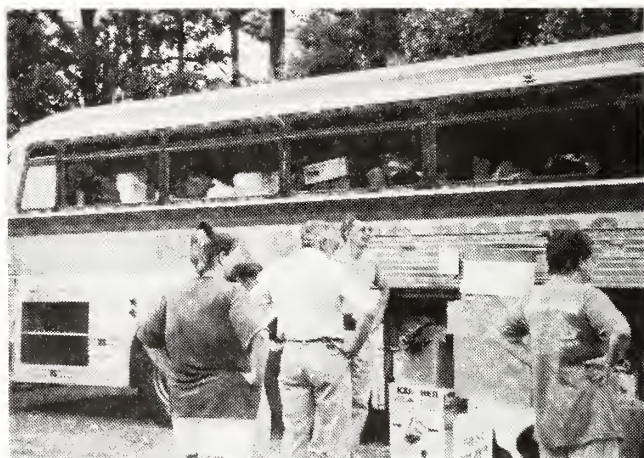
That afternoon there was a raid in the aisles of Wal-Mart as the Drakes and fellow members of the church selected disposable diapers, pacifiers,

shampoo, soap, and other hygiene articles to be given to their despairing neighbors, whom they had never met. Warm blankets and bedding filled boxes and bags and when the shoppers returned to the church they found a group of people had gathered to help load the bus. Young and old formed a line and passed the boxes to Drake who filled every inch of space beneath the bus. From there they moved to the interior where the seats and aisles were packed to the ceiling.

As the bus pulled out of the church yard, the people, though tired and weary, were very happy. Without thought they had become examples of those whom Jesus described as blessed and among those to whom He would say at the judgment. "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed

me: I was sick, and ye visited me:..." (Matthew 25:35-36). Their only motivation had been love, and the knowledge that "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

Being the Christians Rose of Sharon members are, they knew they couldn't stand by and do nothing. They also knew their little, added to that of others, could grow into a mountain of goods and deeds that would sustain the victims of Hurricane Floyd until they could rebuild their lives. That's what they wanted more than anything else.



*Weary, but happy, the workers watch as the bus is loaded and waiting for takeoff to the shelter in Pitt County.*

### **Attention All Churches**

Be sure to remember your pastor during this Christmas season. Show your appreciation for the service he is rendering for your church.

The Minister's Program Compensation Packet suggests "...a minimum of one week's salary as an added bonus during the Christmas season."

**SHOW HIM YOU CARE!**

### **2000 Woman's Auxiliary DEVOTION**

*Now Available at \$4.95 per copy*

*Available January 2000*

**Free Will Baptist  
Youth Program Books**  
*for Cherubs, AFC, & YFA at \$4.50 per copy*

*Order from*

*The Free Will Baptist Press • PO Box 159 • Ayden, NC 28513*



## Tim Stevens: TD salute a tribute to mom

*(The following article was printed in the Raleigh News and Observer and is reprinted with permission and is submitted by Rita Otto Jones. Chris was the "Youth Member of the Year" at Powhatan Church, Clayton, NC, this year and has been an example of faith for all the church.)*

No official thought about throwing a flag for excessive celebration after Clayton's Chris Bagley caught a touchdown pass in a football victory over Wilson Hunt.

He simply pointed to the motor home that was parked beside the field.

His was not a celebration to attract the crowd's attention to himself. Instead it was a tribute to his mother.

She has battled cancer for eight years and was watching her son play for the first time this year.

"I wanted her to be a part of it," Bagley said. "That was important."

Clayton coach Gary Fowler said the touchdown pass in the waning moments of the first half could have been scripted by a Hollywood writer.

"It may have been the most emotional moment I've ever had at a game," Fowler said.

Andy Pleasant, the Clayton baseball coach, said there were few dry eyes on the Comets' side of the field.

"I don't know if there were 12 players on the field or not, but I sure think an angel had something to do with it," Pleasant said. "It was perfect."

Clayton led 3-0 with five seconds left when Fowler sent in a pass play designed to go to Bagley, a senior wide receiver.

Fowler made the call because he thought the play would work, but as he watched the huddle break, he realized what he had done.

The play would be framed perfectly for Vicky Bagley, bed-ridden in the motor home.

Quarterback Shelton Clark passed the ball perfectly, and when Bagley pulled the pass down, he was right in front of the window of the motor home.

He completed the run for a 36-yard scoring play.

"Mother doesn't talk much now, but she told me that she saw it," Bagley said. "And she said that she was proud of me."

Vicky Bagley was diagnosed with breast cancer eight years ago. The disease was in remission for about a year after treatment, but it later spread to her lungs and liver. Now the cancer has spread to her brain.

"I think about her all the time," Bagley said. "But when I caught that pass and scored, all I was thinking about was her."

Fowler said the moment never would have happened if Eddie Gwaltney, the Hunt AD, hadn't gone out of his way to help.

"Hunt didn't have to do what they did," Fowler said. "The easy thing would have been to say that the motor home couldn't get that close to the field."

"But Eddie and those guys bent over backward to help us. It just goes to show that there are an awful lot of good folks in the world."

After Mrs. Bagley arrived, the Clayton players trotted over to the motor home and patted it.

"Our guys wanted to recognize her, to pay respects," Fowler said. "She is a wonderful person and a great battler. We talked a little about life and disappointments and trying to make the best of all of our situations."

"You try to teach the kids some of life's lessons. One of the biggest things they learn is that no matter your circumstances, you've got some things to be thankful for."

Bagley said he would never forget the moment, a moment that he shared with someone he loved.

## Piney Grove to Present Special Christmas Program

Piney Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, Kenly, NC, will be presenting its Annual Christmas gift to the community, "From the Manger..." Saturday and Sunday night, December 11 and 12 from 6:00 to 9:00 each night. More than a live nativity, you will be able to follow the life of Christ through seven scenes from birth to ascension. Drive through or park and walk. Admission this year is free, as always.

Directions:

From Kenly take Hwy 222 East and follow signs to the Church.

For more information call Ann Ferrell at (919) 284-2183.



# *New Year's Eve Celebration 2000*

## *"He Has Risen"*

**Sponsored by: Youth Convention of Original Free Will Baptists**

- Who:** All AFC/YFA aged youth and adult chaperones who have been pre-registered by a local Free Will Baptist YFA Leader prior to the night of the celebration.
- What:** A special New Year's Celebration for the year 2000 with a Christian emphasis. A special message and presentation by Biney English Ministries will be a highlight of the evening along with a Special Cross Raising at Midnight!
- When:** December 31, 1999 beginning at 8:00 PM and ending at 12:00 AM on January 1, 2000.
- Where:** Mount Olive Collge — College Hall, Mount Olive, NC
- Registration Fee:** \$5.00 per person
- Registration Deadline:** The deadline for registration will be December 4, 1999. All registration forms sent after this date will have to be returned to sender. Please hurry and get yours in! We want as many of our young people to have this experience as possible.
- Purpose:** To allow our young people to experience a wonderful Christian beginning to a new Century with other young Christians and to emphasize the importance of Christ in their lives during the coming years. Celebrate Jesus 2000!

**Upon Completion of this registration form, please mail to:**

James W. Cahoon  
PO Box 125  
Columbia, NC 27925

Telephone: 252-796-1412 Home  
252-796-1121 Work  
E-Mail: tljcahoon@eastnet.edu.ecu

### **Directions For Completing This Form:**

This form is to be completed by each church youth leader. Be sure to complete all information on the back of this registration form. The church youth leader is responsible for collecting all monies from individuals and sending a check for the total amount along with this registration form to the above address prior to December 4, 1999. Once the registration form and money have been received, tickets for each individual registered will be mailed back to the youth leader to be distributed as they determine appropriate. All registration must be done through pre-registration. This is required for security purposes. No walk-ins without prior purchased tickets will be allowed on the night of the celebration.

For those who plan to spend the night in the Mount Olive area will need to secure motel accommodations as early as possible. The college dormitories will not be available for our use for this special event. Two area motels include: Sleep Inn — 919-658-1002 and Southern Belle Motel — 919-658-9494

If you are interested in other motels, there are a number of motels in the Goldsboro and Kinston area.



# Biney English Ministries

New Year's 2000  
College Hall — MOC

- 8:00 ..... Welcome  
Prayer  
Congregational Singing  
Devotion  
Who's Here
- 8:15-9:15 ..... Biney English Ministries in Concert
- 9:15-10:00 ..... Refreshments in Murphy Center
- 10:00-10:15 ..... Congregational Singing
- 10:15 ..... Devotion
- 10:30-11:30 ..... Biney English Ministries in Concert
- 11:30-12:00 ..... Devotion with Cross Raising

---

## Registration Information for New Year's Eve Celebration 2000

(To be completed by the local church youth leader responsible for registration)

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Leader  
Responsible for Registration: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Youth Leader:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone of Youth Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

If the youth leader who is accompanying the youth to the Celebration activities is different from the youth leader responsible for registration, please list the responsible leader's name here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please give the number of youth and adults attending the Celebration and the total amount of the check enclosed:

AFC Youth = \_\_\_\_\_ YFA Youth = \_\_\_\_\_ Adults = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number Attending = \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 Registration = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please do not send any cash - Send one check for all of those registered.)

## PIANIST/ORGANIST NEEDED

Casey's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina, is in need of a pianist/organist. Membership of 146.

Services are conducted on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM.

Choir practice is scheduled for Sunday evenings at 6:30 PM.

The first Sunday night of each month, we have a "singing" service for the residents of Britthaven Rest Home in LaGrange. (No practice normally required for this.)

Interested candidates, please contact Melanie Herring at 919-778-8268.

## CHURCHES & MINISTERS AVAILABLE

NOTE: This column is provided, when needed, for any church that is seeking a pastor and for any minister who is seeking a church to serve and would like to give such notice. Please send the necessary information to the editor of "The Free Will Baptist ." (Each notice will run for two issues only.)

Plymouth First Free Will Baptist Church, Plymouth, NC, is seeking a pastor. Parsonage available. Contact: Harrison W. Phelps, 252-793-5236.

Antioch Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pikeville, NC, is seeking a youth director. If interested, please call 919-751-9957. The position will be available beginning in January of 2000.

Union Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Plymouth, NC, is seeking a pastor. Any interested minister may contact Chuck Whitford, chairman of the Board of Deacons, phone 252-793-2900.

The Rev. Ernest Jones is a minister in good standing in the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists and he is also a member in good standing of Holly Springs Original Free Will Baptist Church in Newport, NC. He was ordained into the Gospel ministry on October 21, 1999. He is currently available to fill-in on Sundays in the absence of a church's pastor, or for revival services. He is also seeking a church to pastor in the Eastern Conference. He may be reached by mail at 235 Tom Mann Road, Newport, NC 28570, or by phone 252-223-2701.

# CHRISTIAN ART REVIEWS

by Michael G. Warning,

Pastor Free Union Free Will Baptist Church, Sea Level, NC



Rev. Michael G. Warning

Source: *The Adoration of the Shepherds* by Giorgione. Italian, around 1478–1510. Samuel H. Kress Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Wood panel 35<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 43<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches. From Richard Muhlberger, *The Bible in Art: The New Testament*. New York: Portland House, 1990, pp. 30–31.

## INTRODUCTION

This is a detail of an oil painting by Italian Giorgione (1478–1510). This painting on wood panel is typical in its organization for it represents the focus that all of the rest of the painting is leading the person to see. What we have left out is the everyday life portion of the painting. What we are not seeing includes the scene of a town with a church in the background, all on the edge of the sea, with mountains in the far distance. But our focus is that of the miraculous in the everyday.

## ARTISTIC STYLE

The style of the fifteenth century reflects a strong obsession for detail and a portrayal scene within a broader landscape. The miraculous event of the birth of the child is removed from everyday life by the presence of small angels hovering over the edges of the grotto that we are looking at in our view.

The depiction of the Christ child before which the shepherds are bowing is anatomically correct. That's important, because in earlier views, the child wasn't drawn true to form.

The child is the focus in the center of the art image. The child is in effect the vanishing point for the perspective which means if you drew lines along the top and bottom edges of the figures, they would merge where the child is. This use of perspective is the central feature of fifteenth-century paintings developed during the Reformation and Renaissance which parallel each other. In perspective, that which is close is large and that which is distant is smaller. Everything leads to a point of perspective where all lines converge. A focus at the Christ child is not out of keeping with the intent of this religious painting, for the focus is the birth of Jesus. Therefore, artistic style and philosophical intent merge like the lines of perspective.

## SYMBOLISM

In the left panel which is not completely depicted, we see details of everyday life in a landscape: a worker in a barn, fisherman on the shore, shepherds on a hill. Our focus, however, and the focus of the painting is with the holy family and the adoring shepherds.

Joseph is in his traditional yellow and golden cloak which symbolizes his greater age. Also his white whiskers and soft white cap reflects his age as Mary's husband. The younger Mary is seen in the blue cloak like the blue of the skies, and her rose-colored inner garment embodies the loving flushed flesh which gave birth to the Christ child. They appear like a couple in the trades: clean, successful, healthy. Their focus is the child. They both are looking reverently at the healthy child. Notice their hands are in an attitude of prayer as are the hands of the adoring shepherds.

To the left are the shepherds in ragged clothing, a symbol of their trade: agrarian, earth-colored, rugged. The traditional ox and ass are seen in the background within the grotto to symbolize the stable of the Christian account. This also is a foreshadowing of the carved rock tomb of the burial and resurrection to come.

## CONCLUSION

This Christian art is important at Christmas, for it is a depiction of the Scriptural record, i.e., the stable, the manger, the animals, the adoring shepherds, the adoring parents, the presence of angels, and the occurrence of this in everyday life. For the painter Giorgione, this scene lived within the Italian countryside. For us, the event lives where we are. We all adore the child of blessing and promise in the hope of peace and good will.





# Sunday School Charms

## Hints and Ideas for Sunday School Growth



"It's a busy time of the year,"  
I can hear the people say.  
Running here, Rushing there  
Don't get in their way.

We spend so much valuable time  
Decorating every little thing;  
We forget the meaning of Christmas  
And the wonder about which we sing.

Why not take some time this year  
As you gather with folks you know;  
To remember the birth of a baby boy  
And how He helped us grow.

Take a fresh look at Sunday School  
See the difference there will be;  
If you commit your life to spread the news  
That Christ lives for you and me.

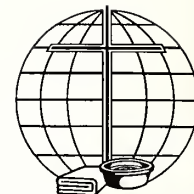
The Sunday School Board thanks each of you  
For remembering our work when you pray.  
May the coming year open new doors  
Of opportunity everyday.

— Mary Dudley

# Convention Update

David C. Hansley, General Administrator

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## Breaking Barriers

Rejection

Exclusion

Attitudes

Discrimination **Together**

### *An Ecumenical Project of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists*

Breaking Bread Together — We all know what that means. We've done it many times. Now the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists has given it a new meaning.

The Convention received a grant from the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities to implement Project "Breaking BREAD Together." Bread stands for **B**arriers, **R**ejection, **E**xclusion, **A**ttitudes and **D**iscrimination. This ecumenical project will assist communities of faith in a nine-county area in Eastern North Carolina to become more receptive to and inclusive of persons with disabilities and their families.

The Rev. David C. Hansley, General Administrator of the Convention of Free Will Baptists is the Project Director. With assistance from the two project coordinators, Hulon G. Whitehead of Kinston and Keith Letchworth of Winterville, he will oversee a Steering Committee of volunteers from the nine-county project area in Eastern North Carolina. The Steering Committee consists of person with disabilities, their family members, clergy, laypersons, and developmental disabilities professionals, all from different denominations and counties.

With direction from the Steering Committee, Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Letchworth will implement three major goals of the project. They are:

- Plan and conduct two regional workshops on the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families in communities of faith.
- Form two congregational coaching teams that will provide assistance to communities of faith in activities such as evaluating the congregation's physical and attitudinal accessibility and developing a plan for addressing the needs of persons with disabilities and their families.
- Develop and manage a regional lending library of materials (books, articles, videotapes, audiotapes, curricula, etc.) that will be available to communities of faith in their ministry to persons with disabilities and their families.

The first workshop is scheduled for Saturday, January 15, 2000. It will be held at Murphy Regional Center at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive. For more information, you may contact the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists (252-746-4963), Hulon Whitehead (252-522-5052), Keith Letchworth (252-355-9580). Mr. Letchworth may be reached by e-mail at [jklquality@aol.com](mailto:jklquality@aol.com).

The overall goal of Project "Breaking BREAD Together" is the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families in communities of faith. Through education and congregational coaching, the project will reach this goal by enabling communities of faith to begin or enhance their efforts in the intentional ministry of carrying out God's plan of including ALL persons in communities of faith.



# DR. PEPPER'S BOOK CORNER

Paul Tillich. *Love, Power, and Justice*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1954. ISBN 0-19-500222-9. \$9.95.

## Introduction

Paul Tillich's wonderful small book of essays on love, power, and justice grew out of his six lectures of the Firth Lectures in Nottingham, England, and the seven Sprunt Lectures at the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. His thesis is clear: Search the root meaning of love, power, and justice and you will discover the *unity of their meaning* if these three concepts are viewed from the ontological analysis. What is an ontological analysis? 'Logos' is the study of being. Ontology is the philosophy which asks two questions, according to Tillich: (1) "What does it mean that something *is*?" (2) "What are

the characteristics of everything that participates in being" (19).

## What does it mean to be?

To be includes the texture of something, what Tillich calls "the texture of being itself" (20). The nature of being includes "love, power, and justice or synonyms for them" (21). How then is the nature of being revealed? Through encounters with reality? You bet.

In that sense, ontology is *descriptive*, because it describes being as encountered with reality. Tillich notes: "Obviously this task is an infinite one, because the encounter with reality is inexhaustible and always reveals qualities of being" (23).

In Christian concepts, we are born again when Jesus Christ lives within us.

## An Ontology of Love

What is love? Tillich declares: "Love is the drive towards the unity of the separated" (25). What does this mean? Tillich explains: "Reunion presupposes separation of that which belongs essentially together... For separation presupposes an original unity. Unity embraces itself and separation, just as being comprises itself and non-being" (25).

The love of God could be called the *agape*, the depth of love or love in relation to the ground of life (ground of being, God). One could say that in *agape*, ultimate reality manifests itself and transforms life and love. "Agape is love cutting into love, just as revelation is reason cutting into reason and the Word of God is the Word cutting into all words" (33).

John reminds us that the Logos, or Word, became flesh in Jesus Christ.

## What is Power?

What is power? Tillich declares: "Being is the power of being!" (37) And how do we define the ground of Being? Through God, the ultimate ground of all Being. What then is power? How does power work? Tillich tells us: "Power, however, presupposes even the metaphorical use of the word, something over which it proves its power... That which is conquered by the power of being in non-being" (37).

Tillich, therefore, sees the human soul as a balance of being and non-being, which being prevailing in the act of faith. To Tillich, "non-being is not foreign to being, but that it is that quality of being by which everything that participates in being is negated. Non-being is the negation of being within being itself" (38).

How does being survive? Tillich insists: "Courage, and that in faith which is courage, affirms the ultimate prevalence of being over non-being. It affirms the presence of the infinite in everything finite" (39).

God, the one, the universal, the everlasting from everlasting is with us.

## What is Justice?

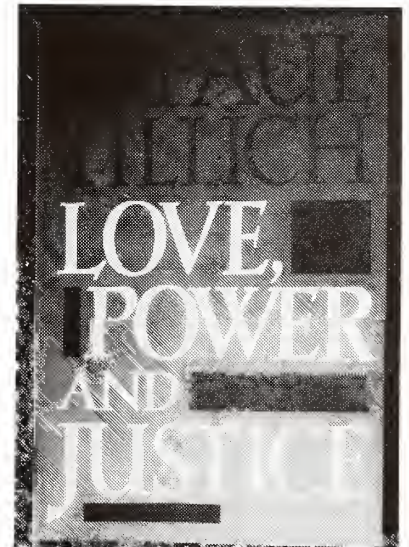
Love, power, and justice unite when the three realities reflect the presence of Being or God. All desire to unite the divided self, the sinner to grace, the powerless to power, the downtrodden to strength, to power, and justice of Being or God within the sinful self, which the finite non-being. To seek a balanced center is the goal.

Tillich insists: "To be just towards oneself means to actualize as many potentialities as possible without losing oneself in disruption and chaos" (70).

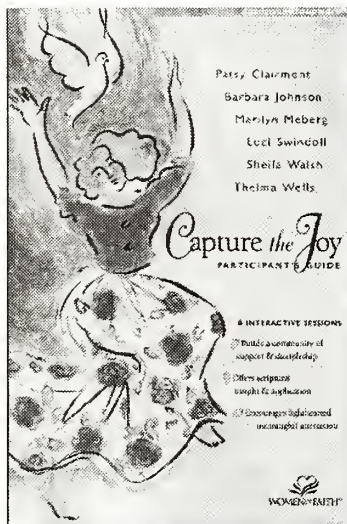
## Conclusion

Paul Tillich's philosophical language is a new way of describing sin, separation, and salvation — the triad of movement or pilgrimage. To experience a new life (Being) we must rest in the courage of faith in God (Being) in the face of our own annihilation by sin (non-being).

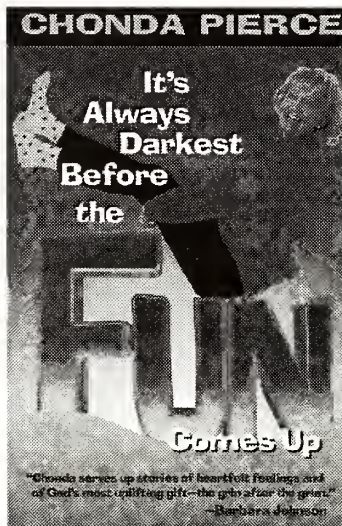
What makes us whole is never our own empty finite will (non-being) but our push inward and outward towards the Presence of God (being whenever, wherever, and with whomever we walk).



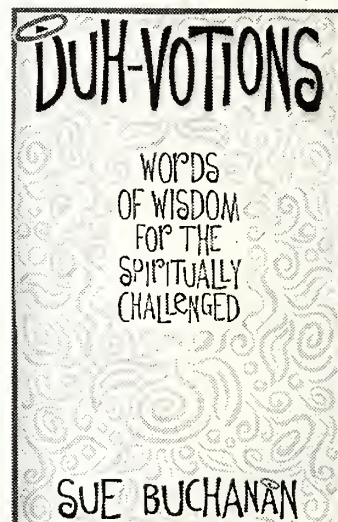
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